

THE TIMES

One sure way to cut
cost of the
EEC 'follies,' page 14

White House deeply divided over action against Iran

at President Carter and his advisers are deeply divided over the possibility of a confrontation with Iran. One presidential aide is saying that "we are down a slippery slope to-

wards a military confrontation". In Iran, fighting has broken out between Kurdish tribesmen and the Iranian army. Tehran has threatened to close the Gulf if America toughens its policy (report, page 8).

Reports embarrass Mr Carter

By David Felton
April 24
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ON PAGE 8

Iran threat to close the Gulf
Japanese impose sanctions
Benn warning of war danger
East German trade agreement

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Stalemate as rail union rejects 20% pay offer

By David Felton

The spectre of a confrontation on the railways was raised yesterday after a surprise decision by the executive of the main rail union to reject a 20 per cent pay offer.

Meetings were hastily arranged to try to break the impasse which has arisen after the National Union of Railwaymen's rejection. The other two unions have accepted the offer, which was tied to a commitment to the introduction of productivity measures.

The NUR's decision was unexpected, not least to Mr Sydney Weighell, general secretary, who after the offer was made last week was confident that it would be accepted. He and the other NUR negotiators recommended the offer to the executive but they were overruled by 21 votes to 6.

A meeting between the NUR and the other two unions, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) is being held in London this morning, when Mr Weighell will try to persuade them to go back into negotiations with him.

If there is agreement between the unions, which is by no means certain, they will meet British Rail negotiators again next Tuesday. But last night Mr Clifford Rose, British Railways Board member for industrial relations, said: "There is no room for manoeuvre."

Mr Weighell said yesterday that the executive had thrown out the offer, first because it was linked to productivity improvements, and secondly because it was to be paid in two stages, 16 per cent now and 4 per cent in June.

During a heated meeting lasting several hours, Mr Weighell was unable to persuade the executive that it was the best deal the union could get. He said the union could have demanded a 20 per cent increase, but he said he was not sure that the executive would have agreed to it.

He said it was too early to talk about industrial action but that he expected British Rail management to meet the union. "They cannot afford not to talk to us. It is as important to them as it is to us to find a settlement."

The executive, he said, was concerned about maintaining the standards of the 100,000 members covered by the negotiations and could see no reason why the award should be staged. Asked whether the executive was prepared to discuss productivity, Mr Weighell said: "They did not say yes and they did not say no."

The productivity proposals are aimed at improving the marginal profitability of British Rail's freight and parcels businesses and reducing administration costs. Further and wider-ranging plans which were also to have been negotiated with British Rail would have led to further pay increases.

Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of ASLEF, who is in Perth for the Scottish TUC and is unlikely to attend today's meeting of the unions, said last night that he was surprised by the NUR decision.

But he indicated that his union, which has 25,000 members covered by the agreement, would be prepared to join the NUR in pressing for immediate implementation of the increase.

Mr Buckton will probably be represented at today's meeting by Mr Donald Pullen, his deputy.

A spokesman for TSSA, with 50,000 members in the agreement, said: "We are dismayed by the NUR decision but these things happen. We are not inflexible and will talk to the other unions."

Mr Rose said: "The rejection of the agreement by the NUR is a surprise and disappointing."

Leading article, page 15



Anderson campaign continues: Mr John Anderson, the Illinois Congressman, who yesterday announced his decision to run as an independent candidate for the American Presidency. Mr Anderson has been contesting the Republican nomination, but he said that he could no longer hope to win it. He had campaigned actively in six pri-

maries, but won none of them. Mr Anderson is conservative in economic policies, liberal on social issues and a moderate in foreign affairs. Announcing his decision, he said: "Too many people in our nation are disillusioned with the prospective choices our party structures are offering."

Report, page 7; Leading article, page 15

Crisis point imminent for Chrysler US

From Frank Voel
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, April 24

Chrysler Corporation is swiftly reaching a desperate situation as its new car sales slump, its cash on hand dwindles, and debt repayments fall due. The company urgently needs about \$1,500m (about £700m) of government loan guarantees, but these can only be provided if Chrysler meets several conditions.

United States treasury officials have been studying new financing and operating plans provided by Chrysler since last Friday.

A treasury spokesman said the decision depends on the findings made by officials on the practicability of the new Chrysler plans. "No one can say at this point what the outcome of the analysis is going to be," said the spokesman.

Mr William Miller, Secretary of the Treasury and chairman of the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Board that has been established by the Congress, hopes to announce a final decision early next week.

The Act approving loan guarantees stipulated that Chrysler must obtain set amounts of guaranteed loans from an assortment of quar-

ters, such as its dealers and suppliers and state and local governments and private banks. There is no flexibility on the key point that to obtain guaranteed loans from the Government the company must show it can raise \$1,450m from outside sources.

It now seems unlikely that Chrysler will be able to prove it can do this, but much can change in the next few days, and in this regard the Canadian Government might play a key role.

Chrysler has plants in Canada and the government there has indicated that it is willing to provide loans to the company, although it seems highly improbable that the amounts will be anything like the \$500m that Chrysler is hoping for.

News reports in Washington had suggested that the Treasury Secretary might announce a decision on Monday. Treasury officials said this was unlikely, and it was not even certain that a meeting of the Loan Board could be convened before mid-week.

"We are working as hard as possible and have been since we received the plan on Friday," a Treasury official said.

King Khalid calls off state visit to Britain

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, offended by the ATV film *Death of a Princess*, is understood to have cancelled plans for a state visit to Britain.

The fresh embarrassment to the Government coincides with the first business contract lost because of the showing of the television film.

Earlier this year, King Khalid was reported to have accepted an invitation from the Queen to visit London in June.

The Charge d'Affaires office at the Saudi Embassy said yesterday: "No official announcement was made." The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: "No visit has been announced. We don't make any comment."

It is understood King Khalid was to have come in place of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophie of Spain, who had to abandon advanced plans for their first state visit.

The North-East Wales Institute of Education announced yesterday it had lost the chance of a £300,000 contract because of the tension between the two countries.

A Saudi minister was to have visited the institute this week for negotiations, but has cancelled that he will not be coming.

Saudi Arabia is Britain's biggest customer in Middle East markets, taking exports worth £893m last year.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said yesterday that Mr James Craig, the expelled ambassador, would be returning to London in a day or two. The Saudi authorities had not instructed him to leave within 24 hours, as sometimes happened.

Ministers rebuke TV, page 8
Saudis under pressure, page 8

Wider curbs on marches being studied

By Peter Evans

The Government is studying ways of tightening the law to prevent public disorder at demonstrations. A Green Paper disclosed yesterday that wider police power to apply conditions to processions was one option being considered.

The Green Paper says that £5.75m was estimated to have been spent on policing demonstrations which needed the attendance of 100 or more officers in London in 1979.

To provide power to ban a march only because most people involved are of the views of those involved would be an unacceptable infringement of traditional freedom, the Green Paper says.

The better course might be to give the police a wider power than at present to apply conditions, including a power to prescribe the route, to individual events."

Report details, page 4
Leading article, page 15

Hot rocks water to heat homes

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A vast reservoir more than 5,000 feet underground will provide hot water and heating for a new development of shops, offices and flats in Southampton in Britain's first application of geothermal energy.

Experiments by the Institute of Geological Sciences, which began last October as a £1.8m project of the Department of Energy, show that there is enough heat for 1,000 homes for more than 30 years from the first offshoot drilled.

Many more wells can be sunk to provide the same amount of power.

The successful experiments in measuring the potential energy available from this source were announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr John Moore, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy.

He said the use of geothermal energy through water heated by hot rocks in the earth's crust was a new technology for Britain, but systems of this kind were working in Europe.

Over the past five years the French Government has encouraged the development of this form of alternative energy. More than a million homes and other buildings obtain their primary supply of energy in this form.

Equipment for pumping hot water to the surface at Marchwood, near Southampton, will be ready later this year.

The tests have established the amount of energy that can be taken continuously from this source and show that a continuous stream of hot water at between 65 to 70 degrees centigrade can be sustained for several decades.

As the water has a high content of minerals, the energy system needs a heat exchanger to transfer power to the usual water supply. Extensive development work has been done on heat exchangers over the past six years because of their importance in energy conservation, hence the provisional designs for the geothermal project are expected to supply water that has dropped by only one or two degrees.

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the name.



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Ministers to agree farm prices

By David Felton

Agriculture ministers failed to agree the level of farm prices, a delay in the settlement of budget dispute, until June, almost certain. A document by the ministers did not conceal the differences between the two sides.

Street threat
The Graphical Association is the disruptive action in Fleet which prevented publication of the "guerrilla" will be used against national publishers with regional and provincial papers and printing firms during the past.

to leave paper
Mr Shrimley is to give up the job of the News of the World, the paper's owners, Group Newspapers, says. The decision that had been made earlier, Mr Shrimley became in 1975, the same year as he was on the board. Previously Mr Shrimley was editor of The Sun Page 2

Hugh Thomas refuses £7,500 book prize

Hugh Thomas, the historian, one of three winners of the Arts Council's first prize, has refused a £7,500 prize. His objection was to the state's intervention in industry and the arts. His book argues that the state's role has shadowed the decay of civilisations, he explained.

'Rush' angers MPs
Strong protests were made by Mr Callaghan and other Labour MPs over what they claimed was an attempt by the Government to rush through the Social Security (No 2) Bill, which puts restrictions on the up-rating of most social security benefits and introduces the "deeming" provisions reducing benefits to strikers' families.

Judicial view on jail
Prisons were so overcrowded that non-violent petty offenders should not be jailed, Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, said in the Court of Appeal. If there was no alternative to a prison sentence, it should be as short as possible.

Husain plea to EEC
King Husain of Jordan appealed to the EEC to launch a new peace initiative in the Middle East to save the region from "a state of confusion, turmoil and growing anger."

Secrecy covers new 'Countryman' case

The secrecy surrounding the investigation into allegations of London police corruption, known as Operation Countryman, has reached a stage where it is claimed that senior Scotland Yard officers were not told for three days this week that a London man had been charged and had appeared in a London court.

Recession in US
President Carter's top officials are no longer hiding the fact that the United States is in a recession. At the same time new forecasts from the International Monetary Fund show a sharp slowing of the growth of industrialized countries this year. They predict a rise in output of only 1.4 per cent in 1980, against 3.4 per cent last year.

Paris: Mr Gromyko meets plain speaking at the Elysee
Energy in Britain: A four-page Special Report on the nation's vital reserves and the Government's policies towards them.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 27, 28; Appointments, 26; Car Buyers' Guide, 26; Property, 27

Leader page 15
Lament: On Western attitudes to Islam, from Mr D. E. Frith and Mr K. Kirk, and others; on the EEC, from Mr Wynne Godley; on midwives, from Miss Juliet Williams.

Leading articles: Railwaysmen's pay; Independent candidate for the White House; Green Paper on public order; Features, pages 9, 14; Geoffrey Smith on the balance in the Tory Party; An Indian view of the followers of Mahatma Gandhi; a new Queen for the Netherlands.

Obituary, page 16
Mr W. M. Balch, Professor Wladyslaw Jurkiewicz, reviewing the week's news; Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing the week's news; Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing the week's news; Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing the week's news.

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By Michael Transport British sive and unless the to more financial Peter Park his chair railways w by year in men's cas doing the death war the fr Rail is th our financ short of bility. Si meeting or improved r "The pi been better financial s be forced i pending m Sir Pre prompt bt pouse from the Ministe said in an onestion d that he R would within its limits." I effective c European was no re in taxpay In a ve sencer tr freight bu made before cha were comm 1978. The tax, inter charges to compared £6.4m. The £530m, £14 for.

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By Our Ed Correspondent The Con- tigher c planning i to make it the needs and for m selection its. mons Sel Education. Arts, the C nized the coming attempt i and from merce. The va industrial casting of much gre ample, in Corporate recruitment centile t meet exte trading fi developme Government The CBI any attem

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By Jacob People become en sion are n enjoy re who retir continue : The re may be tends to health an yond per that they pay of pl e in particular to the ct a state p

Print union threatens to intensify disruption in Fleet Street to back campaign in the regions

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor
Leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided yesterday to confirm and extend the disruptive action of its Fleet Street members which prevented publication of *The Sun*.
Production is likely to be halted without notice by pulling out a few craft printing workers in a "guerrilla" operation against national newspaper publishers with provincial interests. The NGA has been in dispute with provincial newspapers and general printing firms over pay for the past month.
Companies belonging to the Newspaper Society and the British Printing Industries Federation have already begun sending out notices of suspension to 45,000 printing craftspeople operative from Monday in retaliation for the industrial action taken by the NGA.
After the spread of the dispute to Fleet Street, Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association (NPA), made an appeal to NGA leaders not to repeat the disruption at *The Sun* or at any other Fleet Street office. He also wrote to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, asking for urgent TUC intervention to prevent any widening of the industrial action.
Sir Richard's plea for Fleet Street to be spared from disruption, on the ground that the dispute concerned only provincial newspapers and general

printing companies, was put to the NGA national council last night and firmly rejected.
Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, said afterwards: "We have to face up to it, the employers have pushed us over the brink. We must now fight for a just settlement: £80 a week for skilled workers is little enough in these inflationary days, and we need the 37½-hour week to deal with new technology and the threat to jobs."
"So national newspaper owners with interests in Fleet Street will have to accept that they cannot be cocooned from the disaster their managements outside Fleet Street have now embarked upon. If nothing else, this dispute will destroy the myth that all printers get Fleet Street wages."
Most national newspapers have interests in provincial publishing, and would therefore be vulnerable to lightning NGA action of the kind that prevented publication of *The Sun*, where a small number of founders men walked out.
In his letter to the TUC general secretary, Sir Richard said that NPA members felt extreme concern at being involved in a dispute that did not concern Fleet Street union agreements but affected only provincial papers in membership of the Newspaper Society and members of the British Printing Industries Federation. He also emphasized that "the dispute can in no way be resolved by the use of guerrilla tactics be-

ing adopted by the NGA currently in Fleet Street."
Officials at Congress House said the NPA approach would be considered. The move is understood to have the approval of Mr William Keys, chairman of the TUC Printing Industries Committee and general secretary of the largest printing union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat).
Members of Sogat, and the other main printing union, the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Narsopa) have accepted the employers' final offer of £75 a week for crafts- men with a 37½-hour week phased in over the next two years. The NGA is still insisting on payment of the full claim of £80 a week plus the shorter working week now.
The provincial paper and general printing employers' joint negotiating committee met yesterday to implement the ultimatum given to the NGA earlier this week: put the offer out to ballot, or all NGA members will be suspended without pay. Leaders advising employers to take that step went out last night, but the union says that some had already begun issuing notices of dismissal.
Mr Peter Medcalf, president of the printing industries federation, voiced "extreme anger" that printing employers were "being forced by irresponsible union action" to lock out employees, many of whom had played little or no active part in the month-old dispute.

Nalgo seeks 20 per cent inflation rise

By Our Labour Staff
More than half a million white collar local authority workers are to seek a 20 per cent pay rise, only three months after they won a 13 per cent increase in the wake of a campaign of industrial action.
The National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) is also asking for a £70 minimum weekly wage for 18-year-olds, the introduction of a 35-hour week and improvements in holiday and long service leave.
Mr Michael Blick, leader of the union negotiating team, said last night: "The claim is designed to protect the increases gained by Nalgo's recent extremely successful action from the ravages of inflation."
The employers are hoping to restrict pay increases, due from July 1, to within the 14 per cent cash limit fixed by the Government.
The union's campaign of industrial action last month, which stopped rate demands being sent out, and at one stage threatened to disrupt flights from provincial airports, ended with a 13 per cent comparability payment.

AUEW opens fight to retain steel jobs

From Donald Macintyre Labour Reporter
Blackpool
The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers yesterday declared its outright opposition to the British Steel Corporation's closure and rundown plans, involving the proposed loss this year of 32,000 jobs.
At its meeting in Blackpool the national committee of the union, the second biggest in the corporation, also demanded an inquiry into the running of the steel industry, and the "increasing imports of foreign steel into the country."
The unanimous backing from the 52 delegates for the decision came at the first policy conference of a steel union since the end of the 13-week national strike in the industry.
Mr Gavin Laird, an executive member, said after yesterday's debate: "We will instruct all our members that if they take action in defence of jobs, then they will have the support of our union."
Mr Laird said that the decision would strengthen the union's hand in discussions through the Trades Union Congress aimed at persuading the

corporation and Government to decelerate the proposals.
Earlier Mr Laird said that the "strike should never have happened, and when it did, it should have ended a damned sight sooner than it did."
He claimed that the union had been in the forefront of the fight to retain jobs, but it could only succeed to the extent that its members in the industry were prepared to combat redundancies.
Mr Laird accused management, in the face of an increase in imports of 8 to 20 per cent over 13 years, of taking an "inexcusable" decision to limit its own exports.
The management abdicated their responsibility and ran away from the market opportunities," he said.
The executive could face controversy over plans for a new pay structure, which will increase the salary of more senior full-time officials by between 25 and 27.5 per cent.
The argument behind the plan, which provides for a basic 20 per cent increase for all 190 full-time officials, is to restore differentials to provide a measure of career structure in the union.



Mr Bernard Shrimley: leaving at the weekend.

'News of the World' editor to go

By a Staff Reporter
News Group Newspapers announced in a brief statement yesterday that Mr Bernard Shrimley, the editor of the *News of the World*, is to vacate the editorship by mutual agreement.
Mr Shrimley, whose brother, Mr Anthony Shrimley, was made editor in 1975 and appointed to the board the same year.
He previously edited the *Liverpool Daily Post* and became deputy editor of the News Group's newspaper, *The Sun*, when Mr Rupert Murdoch took control in 1969.
The *News of the World* has the largest circulation of any British daily or Sunday newspaper.
"Special problems": Mr Larry Lamb, editorial director of News International, said that *The Sun's* success had created special problems for the paper (Sheila Black writes).
The *Sun* publishes six days a week the kind of story, saucy or sexy, which had been the special prerogative of the *News of the World* and people bought that paper because there was nowhere else to read those stories. But sales of the Sunday paper have been falling.
The IRA has made it known that if the O'Flaighlin talks continue the murder campaign against prison officers will remain in abeyance. If the talks fail the killings will resume.
The "dirty" campaign is in three of the eight H-blocks at the Maze, where more than 300 Republican prisoners are refused to work or do prison work and are confined to their cells.

Secret BL talks to avert Jaguar dismissals

By Clifford Webb Midlands Industrial Correspondent
Senior management of BL met Transport and General Workers' Union officials, and shop stewards in conditions of great secrecy last night, to try to avert the threatened dismissal of 1,800 men on strike at Jaguar, Coventry.
Journalists who tracked the talks down to the company's management training centre at Hasleley Manor, in the depths of the Warwickshire countryside, were turned away by works police.
The centre has been used extensively for union-management meetings in recent months but this is the first time the media have neither been informed nor given facilities to watch the outcome in adjoining rooms.
A BL spokesman explained: "Management wants the talks to take place in private. There will be no statement afterwards."
After the three-hour meeting Mr Eddie McGarry, a senior shop steward said: "I do not know what will help to settle the Jaguar strike. The company simply reiterated its position."

In a carrot-and-stick approach on Wednesday BL first offered the Jaguar strikers a joint union-management panel under an independent chairman to investigate their complaints about the downgrading of assembly workers. It followed this concession, some four hours later with a warning that they would be dismissed unless they reported for work before Monday.
Men laid off were recalled yesterday, and both Jaguar factories opened to all who reported for work. About 2,800 Northern Ireland, have met twice in the past two months and a third and probably final meeting is to be held soon.
Nine prison officers were murdered in Northern Ireland last year. The Provisionals last killed a prison officer in mid-January.
The IRA has made it known that if the O'Flaighlin talks continue the murder campaign against prison officers will remain in abeyance. If the talks fail the killings will resume.
The "dirty" campaign is in three of the eight H-blocks at the Maze, where more than 300 Republican prisoners are refused to work or do prison work and are confined to their cells.

Post workers face more efficiency proposals

By Our Labour Staff
Postal workers, who have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a productivity-linked 15 per cent pay increase, will be asked at their union conference next month to approve further efficiency proposals.
The proposals to the Union of Post Office Workers conference entail branches entering into local productivity schemes, which are based essentially on mobility of labour. Postmen and sorters will receive 70 per cent of the savings which accrue to the Post Office from the scheme. This money will be shared in the form of increases on basic pay.
Union agreement to the present package was essential for the Post Office to ensure that

there was no repetition of last summer's mail delays, when the public was asked not to post letters.
After the ballot, age restrictions on recruitment to the sorter grade have been lifted.
In the ballot, union members voted by 138,330 to 17,290 in favour of acceptance. That is a substantial filip for the union leadership and particularly Mr Tom Jackson, the general secretary, who were defeated at a special delegate conference last month after recommending a similar package.
The only major difference in the productivity element now agreed is that it does not sanction the Post Office's use of casual workers during the summer.

MPs protest at attempt to 'rush through' social security Bill

By Our Political Staff
Strong protests were made by Mr Callaghan and Labour MPs yesterday about the Government's attempt to "rush through" the Social Security (No 2) Bill. The Bill puts restrictions on the up-rating of most social security benefits and brings in the "deeming" provisions, reducing benefits to strikers' families by £12 a week.
Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Security, caused the first rumpus at the first meeting of the Standing Committee considering the Bill, moving that the committee should meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week, with no time limit on the sittings.
"Pandeumonium" was how one Labour member described the scene later, as everyone on the Labour side tried to raise points of order. But, the Government, with its built-in majority, carried the sittings motion.
That led to a heated dispute in the Commons chamber two hours later when Labour MPs

led by Mr Stanley Ouse, the Opposition spokesman on social services, complained that it was impossible to consider the Bill properly when it was rushed through Parliament and when essential documents were not available.
Mr Ouse described the Bill as Draconian, and leading care- ful examination, yet it would not be possible to draft amended amendments effectively if copies of Hansard reports of the committee's proceedings were not available on the day after each sitting.
Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, promised to look into the complaints, but pointed out that there were pressing difficulties.
Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, another member of the standing committee, appealed to Mr George Thomas, the Speaker, to protect the rights of minorities, but the Speaker could only point to the rule that the conduct of a standing committee was in the hands

of the chairman and could not be interfered with. When the committee resumed its session later, Mr Jenkin adjourned the sitting for a day so that he could sort out the difficulties mentioned. The Minister agreed; he said that it did not affect the first clause and that they should proceed. Labour MPs then averted their eyes from the chairman, Mr R. J. Gifford, but he continued the sitting. When he refused further point of order from Mr Albert Stallan, MP for Camden, North, Mr Hamilton shouted: "My wanted to raise a ne order, you have refe think it is intolerable grateful."
The chairman pr- lights this comm- hate then began.

IRA killing campaign halts during talks

From Christopher Thomas Belfast
The Provisional IRA's murder campaign against prison officers is in abeyance pending the outcome of top-level talks aimed at ending the "dirty protest" by Republican prisoners at the Maze prison.
Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, have met twice in the past two months and a third and probably final meeting is to be held soon.
Nine prison officers were murdered in Northern Ireland last year. The Provisionals last killed a prison officer in mid-January.
The IRA has made it known that if the O'Flaighlin talks continue the murder campaign against prison officers will remain in abeyance. If the talks fail the killings will resume.
The "dirty" campaign is in three of the eight H-blocks at the Maze, where more than 300 Republican prisoners are refused to work or do prison work and are confined to their cells.

The Government's attitude to the dirty protest has been set out in a long document produced by the Northern Ireland Office. The 355 prisoners taking part included, it said, 38 convicted of attempted murder, 84 were serving sentences for firearms offences, add 100 for explosives offences.
The document said: "The motive for the protest campaign is the belief that once the Government agree to grant special status it would ultimately also grant an amnesty to such prisoners at the end of their campaign of violence."
Special category status was until April 1 granted for offences committed before March 1976; it is a long-term award under any circumstances. Arms cache: Irish police last night discovered a big arms cache on a farm in county Louth, half a mile from the Louth border (the Press Association reports). It included a rocket launcher, a bomb, a machine gun and other weapons, making equipment and rifles.

The less of Tory rebellion

By George Clark Political Correspondent
Nearly 100 Conservative backbenchers by their abstentions register protest in the past 24 hours that the Government must not go to curb the power of a Mr George Gardiner, five MP for Reigate last night.
His figures relating to the "dirty protest" were immediately challenged by the Government, who said that day and Wednesday. Conservatives had been with permission.
Mr Gardiner told Forest Conservatives that should underestimate the "canoe of the three backbenchers" amend the Bill.
"Last Thursday 37, including Tories felt con vote against the Govern Tuesday there were 45 night 48. But they always the same MPs. backbenchers have 25 deliberately absta: Gardiner said.
Scores more Tory told the whips of their givings. "We must l right, lessons from restore unity to our p backbenchers have b to choose between i the spirit of their ex pledges and supporting Government. That can right.
And to fight off pr based by the mass of voters, Mr Prior had on support from Labour. Mr Gardiner said the G ment had promised a Paper for discussion on union immunities this "We are calling for a constructive approach to this situation," he said. "I let in the statement of a declaration to legislate on w found to be necessary t end of the 1982-83 sessi Parliament.
"Whether the Emplo Secretary may be then, h have the honour to be p ing a Bill that unites the Conservative Party, inste dividing it."
By that last remark, Mr Gardiner implied that Mr should be removed from post as Secretary of Sta Employment. He did not openly yet it is what the Tory rebels have bee ing privately all this wee.

Threats after letter on pay

From Our Correspondent
Stockport
Mr Brendan Murphy, aged 38, a senior official in the town hall at Stockport, Greater Manchester, who is employed to deal with the press, says he has received threats on his life and faces exclusion from his union because he spoke to the press.
Mr Murphy, head of Stockport District Council, and public relations unit, wrote to the *Financial Times* about his pay, now £11,000 a year. He calcu-

late that with a possible 14 per cent rise this year, his salary will have risen 42 per cent in 12 months, without any productivity increase.
His comments were taken up by other newspapers. He was "carpeted" by his branch of the National and Local Government Officers' Association and charged with bringing Nalgo into disrepute, doing a disservice to the membership and misrepresenting the facts. He has 21 days to answer the union's allegations.

Skillcentres face closure to save £6m

By Our Labour Staff
The Manpower Services Commission has announced plans to close 17 Skillcentres and annexes over the next three years. The number of places available for retraining people will increase slightly after the nationalization it reported yesterday.
Closure of the centres will mean the loss of 150 jobs, but no redundancies, and a saving of £6m a year. The commission, which Of 20 centres originally made cuts by the Government as part of its drive to reduce

the size of the Civil Service, said that that was not the main reason for the cuts.
Sir Richard O'Brien, the commission's chairman, said that if it had been just a question of saving staff and money the commission would probably have looked at other aspects of its work.
The closures will mean that people being retrained at a centre will probably have to travel to another centre.
Mr Wedgwood, who is in charge of the commission, said that the commission was under threat of closure due to Maryport, Doncaster and Ply-

mouth have been saved. In areas where centres will close the commission is having discussions with local bodies to see if alternative training facilities can be provided.
The closures received a hostile reception from the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which represents some of the workers who will lose their jobs.
Mr Christopher Easterling, the society's officer for the MSC, said last night that the commission's announcement was one of "lies and half truths."

MPs deplore jailing of brothel keeper

By Our Political Editor
Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the last Labour Attorney General, is among more than 30 MPs of all parties who have signed a Commons motion deploping the prosecution and imprisonment of Mrs Cynthia Payne, who was convicted of keeping a brothel in Streatham, London.
The motion, also signed by another former Cabinet Minister, Mr N. Wedgwood, Benn, approves the non-prosecution of the many male customers allegedly involved. It says that Mrs Payne received "an unnecessary sentence" of 18 months, when she poses no threat to the community and when the cost of imprisoning her will be £140 a week.
Among the motion's Conservative signatories are Mr Charles Irving, Miss Janet Fookes, and Mr John Wheeler.

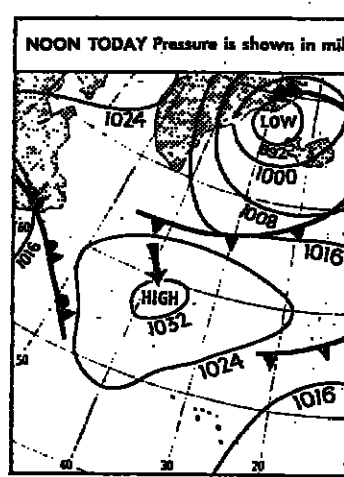
Labour motion on defence

The Opposition last night tabled a motion for the Commons defence debate on Monday rejecting the Government's proposed increase in defence spending.
The motion states that the estimates fail to set out clear priorities for the 1980s, commit the Government to increases in expenditure for in excess of economic growth forecasts and offer no new initiative towards nuclear and conventional disarmament.

Hayward attack

The Prime Minister was accused yesterday by Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, of making trade unions "the scapegoat for all our troubles." He was addressing the Scottish TUC in Perth.

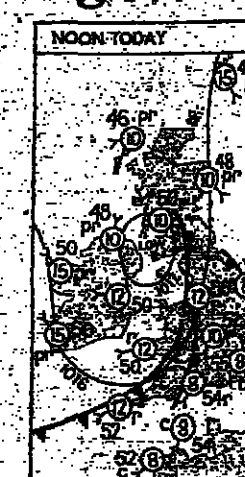
Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.44 am
Moon sets: 8.14 pm
Sun sets: 4.16 am
Moon rises: 3.9 pm
Full moon: April 30



12°C (52° to 55°F), cooler near E coast.
Central S, NW England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, Lake District: Cloudy, bright intervals, rain in places; wind S variable, light; max temp 12° to 14°C (54° to 57°F).
SW England, Wales, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle; hill fogs patches; winds variable, light; max temp 12° to 14°C (54° to 57°F).
SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Showers or longer but breaks; rain, mostly during sunnier periods; wind variable; light; max temp 11 to 13°C (52° to 55°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain in S Britain, mostly clearing out with sunny periods developing; further rain reaching NW Scotland later; normal temps.
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind mainly NW, moderate; sea mainly slight to moderate; locally fresh; sea mainly slight.



English Channel (E): variable, light or moderate mainly slight.
Yesterday
London: Temp: max 7.4, min 1.7, 7 am, 9°C (48°F), Humidity: 68 per cent, Rainfall: 2.1 mm, Wind: 2 to 40 7 pm, all mean sea level, 7 pm, 1020.8 hPa, falling, 29.53 in.

Overseas weather prices	Overseas weather prices
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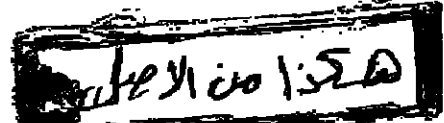
The fast-acting weedkiller.



Spray weeds with 'Weedol' and its chemical formula interferes with the weeds' normal food production process. So that instead of nourishing weeds, light will actually kill them. This speedy effective action has helped to



make 'Weedol' No.1 in weed-killers. Plus, of course, the fact that it won't harm the ground. It's totally inactivated on contact with the soil, so you'll never find it spreading to the roots of other plants. You will kill only what you spray.



AT LAST, A PERFORMANCE CAR THAT'S AS SAFE AS A VOLVO.

The new Volvo 244 GLT is everything you'd expect from Volvo.

It's built around a strong steel cage with crumple zones at the front and rear.

(Capable of soaking up a 50 mph collision.)

Those familiar shock-absorbing bumpers are still very visible.

While we haven't skimped on the things you can't see, either.

The doors are still inlaid with steel bars to protect you from side swipes.

The zinc coating we use is still about 4 times thicker than that used by many other car makers. (Which means 4 times more protection from rust.)

New engine

But if some things are familiar, some are different.

The 244 GLT has a top speed of 112 mph.

It moves from 0-60 mph in just 9.5 seconds.

(Faster than the BMW 525 or Alfa Romeo Alfetta 2000L.)

The new 2.3 engine is remarkably economical and a four-speed gearbox with overdrive makes it ideal for motorway driving.

(The GLT was originally designed for police work and is currently in the custody of several forces.)

As you'd expect, the handling more than keeps pace with the performance.

Gas shock absorbers, aluminium wheels, low



profile tyres, a front spoiler and power-assisted steering give you control at all times.

While stopping is equally predictable. (Thanks to ventilated disc brakes on the front wheels and standard discs on the rear.)

Inside, you'll want for very little.

The standard specifications include a heated driver's seat, sun-roof, rev-counter, and cloth upholstery.

Not to mention 2 door mirrors you can adjust from inside the car.

See it now.

The new Volvo 244 GLT is at your Volvo showroom now.

Although not a limited edition, we plan to import only a few hundred each year.

So if you'd like one, we suggest an early visit.

A car like this is bound to go fast.

THE NEW VOLVO 244 GLT.

THE GLT COSTS £28696 (DELIVERY & NUMBER PLATES EXTRA) PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES ARE - 16.3MPG (17.3 LITRES PER 100KM) URBAN CYCLE, 32.2MPG (26 LITRES PER 100KM) AT 56MPH AND 27.4MPG (30.3 LITRES PER 100KM) AT 75MPH. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES. FOR THE 1980 EDITION OF 'VOLVO FACTS' WRITE TO: DEPT. T12, VOLVO CONCESSIONAIRES LTD, LONDON W13 9JQ. SALES TEL: HIGH WYCOMBE (0494) 33444. SERVICE TEL: IPSWICH (0473) 72026. PARTS TEL: CRICK (0788) 823511.

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HOME NEWS

Green Paper suggests wider police control of marches

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Ways of providing more flexibility in measures to preserve public order while allowing freedom to demonstrate are discussed in a Green Paper published yesterday.

But it says: "No amount of tightening of the law, short of draconian measures unacceptable in a democracy, can guarantee the prevention of all disorder."

"If there are those who seek violence and confrontation, they are unlikely to be prevented by changes in the law from having it. What the law can do, however, is to clarify individuals' liberties and obligations, and to give the authorities sufficient powers to try to prevent disorder before it occurs and to cope effectively with it if it nevertheless breaks out."

"In the end, the avoidance of disorder depends on the willingness of us all to observe the law."

The Green Paper quotes examples of the sort of events which have taken place since the disturbances in the 1920s attending the activities of the British Union of Fascists and the Public Order Act passed to cope with them.

It refers to recent disturbances not only at Southall but Lewisham and Ladbroke Grove, Diogenes in Birmingham in 1978 and Leicester in April, 1979.

The number of demonstrations in London involving the employment of more than 100 police officers was 65 in 1972 and 119 in 1979. In London, the total manpower deployed for all major demonstrations has increased from 19,000 to 1972 to 108,000 in 1979. The number of people arrested at demonstrations in London in 1974 was 247, but 336 in 1979. The larger number of police officers necessary may have reinforced misconceptions of the police role.

Cost of policing demonstrations

The report of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner estimates the cost of policing 18 big demonstrations in London at almost £2.5m. He put the cost of policing all demonstrations in London in 1979 which needed the presence of 100 or more officers at about £100. There are other major costs to the community, the public and for court hearings.

The review has as its starting point the need to safeguard the rights of peaceful assembly and public protest and the right to public order and tranquillity. It is the task of Parliament to determine from time to time where the balance should lie and of the police and courts to ensure the balance is observed in particular, the Green Paper says.

The police depend for their effectiveness on the cooperation of the public. In Britain they do not have sophisticated riot equipment, such as tear gas or water cannon, to handle demonstrations. Their traditional approach is to deploy large numbers of officers in ordinary uniform in the passive containment of a crowd. "Neither the Government nor the police wish to see this approach abandoned in favour of more aggressive methods."

There is, under our law, no statutory right to assemble in a public place or to process along the highway, although the European Convention on Human Rights, of which the United Kingdom is a signatory, guarantees the right of freedom of assembly.

But the courts have recognized that people are free to proceed along the highway, subject to certain specific restrictions. In particular, they



Police holding pickets in check outside Hadfields' steelworks, Sheffield, during the steel strike in February.

Change in law opposed

The National Council for Civil Liberties last night strongly criticized the suggestion in the Green Paper that the criteria for a ban on marches could be made less stringent. Under present law, a ban can be imposed only when serious public disorder cannot otherwise be avoided. The council objects to the suggested omission of the word "serious".

It also criticizes the Government's belief that five days' notice of processions might be given. That idea was rejected by Lord Scarman in the Red Lion Square inquiry and more recently by the House of Commons when dealing with local authority Bills. The council says: "The demonstrations that have resulted in public order problems are not those that have taken the police by surprise."

the argument that, since much of the recent disorder has resulted from confrontations between supporters of the National Front and others, including members of the Socialist Workers' Party, there are grounds for banning one or other of these organizations or both."

But would it be right for marches to be banned where serious offence is likely to be caused to certain sections of the community, for example, on racial or religious grounds, even though serious disorder is not likely to ensue? Could the police be asked to enforce laws based on a criterion of "offensiveness" without becoming seen as the agents of one political or social view?

The Government's provisional view is "that the fact that a march is being conducted by people who hold views which the majority of the community find offensive should not in itself be a sufficient reason to ban the march". To provide power to ban on such grounds alone would be an unacceptable infringement on traditional freedom of thought and expression.

Difficulty of definition

Should the test rather be disruption to the local community? The difficulty, as with a test of "offensiveness", would be defining it sufficiently precisely without presenting opportunities for undue interference with democratic rights.

There are already provisions forbidding the holding of parades or meetings in certain areas, either absolutely or without permission, and the Green Paper, says, "there may be arguments for some limited extension of restrictions of this type. To introduce provisions forbidding processions or meet-

ing outside certain limited areas, however, would be a rather different matter. The Green Paper says: "The better course might be to give the police a wider power than at present to apply conditions, including a power to prescribe the route, to individual events."

The Government's provisional conclusion is "that the risk of public disorder should remain the basis on which a ban on an event is considered, though the addition of other criteria need not be ruled out... It is this accepted, the question then arises whether the test of serious public disorder is in practice too stringent."

It can be argued that the rights of demonstrators are being given too much weight as against the interests of the community. It can also be argued that local ratepayers should not have to suffer a reduction in normal police cover for finance expensive mutual aid arrangements in order to enable controversial groups, drawing much of their support from outside the area, to express their views.

But the suggestion of a public order test linked to the ability of a force to cope with disorder from its own resources seems impracticable, the Green Paper says. Restrictions would effectively limit freedom to demonstrate in some areas while in consequence placing a heavier burden on others.

But the policing of demonstrations does divert police effort from other tasks. One way of taking this (and other considerations) into account might be to enable the effect of an event on the policing of an area as a whole to be taken into consideration, along with the risk to public order, when a ban was being discussed.

The test of serious public disorder in the 1936 Act is linked to the power to impose conditions on a procession as well as to ban one. The stringency of the test may have had... a more serious effect in restraining the use of the power to im-

pose conditions than in limiting the number of bans on marches. There seem good reasons for some relaxation of the present test if the rights of those who wish to march and those of the rest of the community are to be properly balanced.

Section 3 of the Public Order Act does not permit the banning of a particular march. But it is narrowly defined ban might be circumvented by self-organizers calling themselves by a different name or finding a different pretext for a banned march. "However, this difficulty might be lessened if there were a requirement to give advance notice of processions."

Referring to debate about procedure to ban, the Green Paper suggests that one compromise might be for powers to present a ban to the council might perhaps be conferred on the county council, if only to avoid the chief officer having to seek a ban after ban from different councils if an organization kept on switching its marches from district to district in the same locality.

Under the Public Order Act, there is no power to arrest those who defy a ban or who disobey routing instructions given by the police. The Government is inclined to think it desirable that police powers to disperse unlawful processions or assemblies by reasonable force, if necessary, should be clarified by being embodied in statutory form.

Provisional conclusion

A power to impose conditions on the conduct of a procession is contained in Section 3 (1) of the 1936 Act. That gives a chief officer of police power, where he has reasonable grounds for apprehending that a procession which is taking place or is to take place may occasion serious public disorder, to give directions imposing such conditions as appear to him to be necessary to preserve public order. In practice it appears to have been used by the police with caution.

The Government's provisional view is that public order considerations should remain the ground for imposing conditions on a march, as for banning it, although the stringency of the test of serious disorder might usefully be relaxed and the addition of other criteria need not be ruled out.

"If on balance it was felt undesirable to lessen the test of serious public disorder for banning a march, it might nevertheless be desirable to introduce

a less stringent test (simply of disorder) for the application of conditions to a march. The power to impose conditions with reasonable cause would remain in the hands of the police."

Should demonstrators be required to meet the costs of policing their demonstrations? Although the Government has a good deal of sympathy with feelings that often lie behind such suggestions, practical difficulties seemed formidable.

"The Government sees more merit in the representations that have been made on many occasions in favour of a national requirement for advance notice of processions."

If there were any new controls, the first question is to what type of public assembly they should apply. "The difficulties that have arisen in preserving order have in the main occurred as a result of gatherings of one sort or other in the open air."

There may therefore be a case for considering whether a requirement of advance notice and the powers to lay down conditions, and, in the last resort, to ban on public order grounds should apply to assemblies on people in public places in the open air (including the highway).

Consideration would have to be given to the nature of activity which should be exempt from those provisions. "They might not apply, for example, to peaceful picketing, though they could apply to large-scale demonstrations in support of pickets."

The Government is in no way committed to the view that controls of a more or less extensive character are necessarily desirable.

No significant evidence

The Government is unaware, however, of any significant evidence to suggest that the wearing of political uniforms is a general problem at present or that the existing law is inadequate in that respect.

Section 4 of the Public Order Act makes it an offence to carry any offensive weapons at a public meeting or procession without lawful authority. The Government has no intention of extending police powers in that context to take preventive action.

The Government sees no need to change Section 5 of the 1936 Act as amended which makes threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour in a public place or meeting an offence.

Section 70 of the Race Relations Act 1976 inserted a new section (Section 5A) into the Public Order Act 1936. That made it an offence for any person to publish or distribute written matter or to use in any public place or at any public meeting words which were threatening, abusive or insulting in a case where racial hatred was likely to be stirred up against any racial group in Great Britain by the matter or words in question.

Since Section 5A came into force in 1977, 15 people have been prosecuted for incitement to racial hatred or conspiracy to incite racial hatred or both. Nine were found guilty of incitement to racial hatred.

Notwithstanding these figures, it has been argued that the present provision is still largely ineffective, and in particular that it does not catch activities which cause grave offence to the ethnic minority communities.

The Green Paper says the review will consider both the scope of Section 5A and its purpose.

Review of the Public Order Act 1936 and Related Legislation (H.M. Stationery Office, £2.50). Leading article, page 15

Black pupils given a helping hand by the law

From Arthur Osman Bedford

The headmaster of a large Birmingham comprehensive school with 82 per cent coloured pupils told a crime conference yesterday that given the opportunity, the resources, and the right approach the police would be able to help young blacks.

Mr Stephen Allatt, head of Holt school, gave the first review of "Lopez's project", in which a team of police officers helped significantly to lessen tensions in the largely coloured area of Handsworth.

The conference at Cranfield Institute of Technology, Bedford, heard that the project, which cost £36,000 this year, is being closely monitored by the Home Office.

More than 60 fourth-year pupils are involved in a special curriculum, planned and operated by members of the West Midlands police, the education authority and one of the school's teachers.

The children are split into three groups and attached to a police officer for each weekly 90-minute lesson. The average of the officers is an average of 10 years old.

Mr Allatt said: "The most telling factor in accepting the implementation of the project was the deep concern about police-community relations in the area."

Undoubtedly the social problems in the West Midlands had their microcosm in the school, with over 82 per cent of the 1,800 pupils from ethnic minorities living in a deprived area. Pupils were concerned about their own future and the future of their community.

Inspector conducted a detailed examination of a case involving a West Indian youth and invited pupils to the police station to pursue the matter further. "This frankness proved the turning-point," Mr Allatt said. "The police were no longer seen as an alien force, but as a team willing to accept the mon-itoring of the state."

Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, who was instrumental in starting the project, told the conference of groups which, when views on racial or religious harassment or when riotous and speculation masquerade as fact, can quickly polarize, leading to over-reaction.

"It may well be that we should take a fresh look at preventive policing and see if a spearhead could not be provided to reclaim some of the ground lost."

Volunteer officers 'ignorant at Bristol riot'

By Our Crime Reporter

Extra police reserves were available in Bristol during the riot in the St Paul's area three weeks ago but were not used, an article says in this week's edition of Police, the magazine of the Police Federation.

In an examination of the riot the article claims that off-duty officers who volunteered to help were ignored and eight special constables were brought in to the police without training from the riot area and waited for reinforcements from surrounding forces.

The article says: "What disturbs some members of the force (Avon and Somerset) and outside observers is the apparent absence of an contingency plan to cope with serious public disorder in the area."

"It is not a confidence-booster when a chief constable tells the media, at the height of the trouble, that the police have been withdrawn because their presence was merely provocative."

But the article goes on to say that Mr Brian Weight, the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, may have been right to act as he did on the ground that early restoration of the police presence could not achieve its objective and

£7,500 Arts Council prize refused by historians

By Kenneth Gosling Arts Reporter

A literary award of £7,500 was returned to the Arts Council during a prize ceremony in London last night by the winner, Hugh I. Williams.

Mr Williams was one of prize-winners in the Arts Council's first national book prize in the history or biography category for his work *Unfinished History of Wales*.

Mr Williams is a member of the Arts Council and a socialist. After the cheque was presented to him by Mr. Robinson, the chairman, Mr. Williams said: "I am very grateful to the Arts Council for the award, but I am not taking it."

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Peach inquiry statements can be seen, Yard says

By Nicholas Timmins

People who make statements to the police inquiry into the death of Blair Peach will be permitted access to them before giving evidence at the resumed inquest on Mr Peach, which opens on Monday, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

The unofficial inquiry set up by the National Council of Civil Liberties into the events at Southall in April last year, in which Mr Peach died, recommended earlier this week that all parties at the inquest should be given copies of the statements made to the police inquiry, which was headed by Commander John Cass, former head of Scotland Yard's complaints investigation bureau.

Such a move has been refused by the police and by the

Apology for former police chief over Confait book

By Alan Keith Jones, a former detective chief superintendent, who led investigations into the death of Maxwell Confait, accepted an apology in the High Court yesterday in settlement of a libel action against the authors and publishers of a book, *The Confait Confessions*.

Mr Jones, of Upper Shirley Road, Croydon, had sued Mr Jonathan Caplan, Mr Christopher Price and Marion Boyars Publishing Ltd.

Mr David Vaughan, his counsel, told Justice O'Connor that Mr Jones retired on pension in 1977 with an exemplary record. One of the investigations was into the killing of Maxwell Confait, for which three youths were convicted, although their convictions were subsequently quashed on a reference to the

Court of Appeal by the Home Secretary.

The investigation and trial was the subject of an inquiry. In the introduction to the book criticisms were made of police conduct.

Mr Jones considered that would be constructed as implying that he had given perjured evidence at the trial or was in some way guilty of corruption. The main concern of Mr Jones had been to vindicate his reputation and integrity as a police officer.

Mr David Eady, for the defendants, said they had never intended to suggest that Mr Jones had behaved corruptly or given perjured evidence and if such inference was drawn from criticisms in the book of police behaviour, they apologized to him.

Patients to get breakfast of rolls and jam to save cash

By Lucy Hodges

Patients in Berkshire's 32 hospitals will wake up to rolls, butter and jam from next Thursday instead of the usual cereal and cooked breakfast.

The decision to change from a traditional English to a continental breakfast has been taken for financial rather than nutritional reasons, and it is causing a minor rumpus among staff who believe in patients starting the day with a hearty meal.

Mrs Tessa Howell, assistant director of MIND, the National Association for Mental Health, said the decision to make the £18,000 saving disgraceful. "It is indefensible that mentally ill people whose services receive such low priority should once again be asked to deliver a saving to the district management team," she said. "Less money is spent on food in men-

tal hospitals than in general hospitals anyway."

Her feelings are shared by Mr Paul Walsh, East Berkshire's senior nursing officer (research). "All the staff are outraged," he said. "There should be an increase in the food provision in long-stay hospitals."

Mr Walsh said it was not only the breakfast menu that would change under new proposals. High tea at 5 pm and supper at 7.30 pm are to be streamlined.

Berkshire's health budget is about £70m a year and the authority is expecting a £1.5m deficit because of the Government's reluctance to allow for inflation. It is hoped that West Berkshire will be able to save £12,000 and East Berkshire £6,000 by introducing the new breakfast.

In brief

End of fagging at Eton

Fagging at Eton is to be abolished by the end of this term.

Mr Michael McCrum, the Head Master who retires in July, said: "It is generally considered to be outdated. Outsiders are inclined to look at it in terms of Tom Brown's School-days."

Inadequate air supply led to pothole death

Ian Plant, a porholler, of Settle, North Yorkshire, died going ahead with a dive 200 feet below ground even though he knew he did not have a fully supply of air, it was stated at an inquest at Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria, yesterday. A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

Gunmen flee offices

An office block at Trafalgar Square, London, was evacuated yesterday after two armed men were surprised inside the building by a security guard. The men escaped.

New survey ship

A new coastal survey ship to help in the hydrographic survey of shipping routes round the British coast is expected to be ordered later this year. Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday.

Unlucky gambol

Mrs Ivy Scott, aged 67, of Kineton, Warwickshire, suffered a broken arm and back injuries when hit and knocked down by a neighbour's pet lamb called Berbie.

Assay Office to reopen

A strike over the loss of 43 jobs at the Assay Office in Birmingham is over. The office, which has been closed for the past 10 weeks, will reopen on Monday.

Random breath tests urged to cut drink-drive deaths

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

Police should have the power to test any driver for excess alcohol in the blood and not just those suspected of being drunk, Mr R. H. O'Hanlon, deputy chief constable of Staffordshire police, said yesterday.

Only if such random tests were introduced would the drink-driving legislation regain its former impact and have perhaps one thousand lives a year, he told the Royal Society of Health's annual conference in Folkestone.

The first breath-test Act in 1967 saved an estimated 5,000 lives in the subsequent seven years but gradually lost its impact. The situation was worse than it was before the 1967 Act was introduced, he said.

"The police are the first to arrive at the scene to sort out the chaos and pick up the bodies. Can you wonder that they have a glazed look in their eyes, as you trot out the old chestnut about the liberty of the subject, when they have just finished attending to a lovely young schoolteacher whose face has been lacerated to shreds by being thrown through a wind-screen?"

Three out of four drivers who were killed on Saturday night had excess alcohol in their blood. Nearly one in every two drivers in his teens and twenties, killed on the roads, had excess alcohol in his blood. Would you like to knock on the door and tell the parents of their loss? Mr O'Hanlon asked.

Other changes that would reduce the toll of road accidents, which cost an estimated £20m in 1979 in Staffordshire alone, would be making seat-belts compulsory, driving tests more difficult and cars safer, he said.

Car safety devices such as rear fog lights, head restraints and



The new breath-test device being demonstrated

Whitehall seeks reaction to obscenity report

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is seeking comments on the Williams report on obscenity and film censorship, which recommended widespread changes in the laws on obscenity and indecency.

Announcing the move yesterday, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, asked that comments be in by July 31.

A consultation note outlining the report's recommendations is available from the Home Office.

The committee, which reported last year, recommended a ban on a wide range of material, with restrictions on pictorial material which would be "offensive to reasonable people" so that it would only be available at special outlets, with warning notices and entry prohibited to those under 18.

The committee also recommended no control over exclusively written material, a ban on live sex shows, a statutory body to replace the British Board of Film Censors, and the removal of a local authority's powers to ban films.

BSC entitled to privacy, QC say

By Frances Gibb

A public interest exists in the British Steel Corporation being allowed to conduct its affairs in private, Mr Leonard Hoffmann, QC, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The corporation, as a public body, must be as much, or more, entitled to the protection of the same laws of confidentiality as any private company, he said.

"It is in the public interest that a large nationalized corporation, entrusted by Parliament with the management of the iron and steel industry, should be able to prevent leakages of information which

may impair its efficiency or help its competitors."

Persons who formulate policy for a great nationalized industry, like those who formulate Government policy, must be able to have confidential discussions between themselves and their advisers without fear that their views will be relayed to the press and on television on the basis of a leak of what they have said, Mr Hoffmann told the court.

The court, presided over by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, is hearing an appeal by Granada Television against a ruling by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery

Division, that Granada ordered to disclose the contents of confidential documents obtained about British Steel. The documents form the basis of a programme on the steel industry, which Granada is producing. The programme is being shown on television on the basis of a leak of what they have said, Mr Hoffmann told the court.

ME NEWS

s cleared
trial in
which jury
vetted

ur Correspondent

police officers were at Sheffield Crown yesterday in the case in which a jury was vetted for records.

Constables Michael Adkinson, aged 21, of Road, and Peter Oliver, aged 26, of Road, both Sheffield, had caused bodily harm to Palmer, aged 14, in evidence against Mrs Sheila Powell, a woman special constable with PC Oliver, she was shocked to officers from March the ram his head against all.

agreed the boy was maker with a gang in the estate district, and that Mrs Powell he force with the if a "do-gooder".

Officers denied using force and said struggles had caused slip. His head had contact with the wall, which took an hour its verdict, had not by Judge Pickles that a vetted. His decision a jury members had langed by Mr James Chief Constable of shire, who took the Court of Appeal, that it could not inter-

rael Harrison, for the n, said in the absence y that the judge had rutiny of records to y the chief constable ght he necessary to ails of the birth dates

Pickles said he was o know what had in other vetting e Northamptonshire e been doing vetting though it was not known. Was their th dates of birth?

d: "This is a matter public contention. I recently that the Appeal will have a jury-vetting from onshire which will z on everyone and in will be clarified

ie later said: "There any reasons for the challenge of do not want it to there is one particu in this case. If it is tain names should l instead of going x to be challenged ne."

n evil whatever the
ve, recorder says

Correspondent

evil, whatever the Velsh fire-raiser was rd Hooson, QC, the at Dolgellau Crown medd, yesterday.

Roberts, aged 41, a of Advy Ddu, Pen- eth, was jailed for rs after admitting to an empty cottage, ore than 14,400 of

was in January at the the arson campaign second homes in M. Lewis Jones, for e, said there was no otive.

asons for setting that fire may never be e added. According al report, Mr Roberts ed to commit suicide, most been overcome but his dog, barking outside the cottage, it him to his senses.

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Correspondent

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efulness of tacho- in road accident was highlighted by eric Halls, North ire coroner, at a crash inquest at rent yesterday.

hearing evidence stement he said it dness had not caused

orilal Narshi Pandit, a lorry driver, of Lane, Leicester, died ag out of his lorry on shoulder of the M6 field in Staffordshire, run over when his s struck by a French

hard Lambourn, a scientist, said the l in the cab of Mr bi, the French lorry vealed that he had rests on his journey over recorded a ver- idential death on Mr

for nuclear shelters

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andom from Greater Young Conservatives l-Mr William White- Home Secretary, to building pre- or nuclear shelters. If people who construct elters for their homes eive rate relief.

nal shelters should be the basements of new dings and provided cks of flats and on states.

amendment, which is mitted to the Govern-

Space programme will
be victim of cuts
in UK science budget

By Robin McKie
of The Times Higher Education Supplement

There will be no new space programme for the United Kingdom before 1985 because of the recent Government cuts in the country's science budget.

The reductions in research funding will also severely limit projects in biotechnology, and curtail spending on an ambitious satellite surveillance programme to monitor the earth's resources.

These decisions are contained in the Science Research Council's plan for 1981 to 1985. It has been approved by the council and the Advisory Board for the Research Council, the part of the Department of Education and Science responsible for distributing the science budget.

However, the council has decided to approve spending on several big projects over the next four years. They will include the 19m optical telescope and the 5.7m millimetre radiation telescope for the United Kingdom Northern Hemisphere Observatory in the Canary Islands; a £2.3m investment in robotics research and a commitment to participate in the European large electron-pion (LEP) collider to be built near Geneva.

In its submission to the advisory board, the Science Research Council outlines its priorities for funding, given that it is to receive annual support which will now remain relatively constant at about

£165m in 1979 prices. Those are spread over the research council's four boards: engineering; astronomy, space and radio; science; and nuclear physics.

The main engineering project will be implementation of the Roberts' report, published in March, 1979, which called for a substantial research council role in preparing Britain for the advent of the micro-processor. That will be done by setting up microelectronics programmes in schools, universities and at postgraduate and continuing education levels, and by establishing several large new research programmes.

A total of £9m is to be spent on the microelectronics programme, including £2.3m which will be invested in robotics research, particularly for the development of new techniques for industrial automation. A further £1.4m will be spent on new university MSc courses in integrated circuit design. £800,000 on research into micro-electronic sensor and measuring techniques, and £500,000 to set up a Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) microchip plant at either Edinburgh or Southampton universities.

To provide money for the microelectronic programme, research projects in medical and civil engineering, and in marine technology, will have to be cut. Also, funds to support biotechnology research into the industrial use of genetic engineering, will be limited to £2.7m.

Fire destroys
offices of
newspaper

From Our Correspondent
Colchester

The offices of the *Bury Free Press* in Bury St Edmunds, were largely destroyed yesterday by a fire which police said was deliberately started.

They are thought to be linking the fire with two other attacks in the past few weeks, the worst of which was the destruction of the Bury St Edmunds sports centre.

Police said that the premises of the 125-year-old Suffolk weekly newspaper had been forcibly entered. More than 40 firemen fought the blaze, and at one stage 150ft flames leapt through the roof. The library containing material dating back to the founding of the newspaper was saved from serious damage.

Three Dartmoor
fires when
horseman rode by

An Army officer with binoculars who watched a horseman on Dartmoor dismount three times and start fires gave a warning yesterday of possible danger to human lives because of the dry ground and strong winds.

Up to 50 square miles of moorland have been blackened by fire over the past week.

Colonel Noel Hodson, who is in charge of the Army firing ranges on Dartmoor, said: "There is no question of one 'nutter' being responsible for the lot. The horseman I saw was probably doing illegal swaling, burning off part of the moor to get better, fresher grass when it grows through.

Swaling is banned in the national park from April 1 to October.

Colonel Hodson, who was watching a remote stretch of moorland near Princetown, has stopped his men training with inflammable materials such as tracer bullets and flares because of fire risk.

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for nuclear shelters

men's civil defence review team whose report is due this year, adds that a system of pre-attack food rationing is essential to ensure the fair distribution of food and to lessen the likelihood of pre-attack panic-buying, shortages and possible food riots.

Stocks of food should be augmented by bulk supplies of dehydrated and freeze-dried foods stored in blast-proof shelters.

The budget of the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Service should be trebled to £13m, the memorandum says.



Shells for the nation: Mr William Ogden, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, with his collection of shells, collected in Suffolk about 70 years ago, which he has donated to the British Museum (Natural History). Among many items in the collection is the type specimen of *Helix ogdeni*, found by Mr Ogden in 1914. The collection was accepted on behalf of the museum yesterday by Mr John Cooper of the Department of Palaeontology.

Local elections: enthusiasm lacking in North-east

Labour seems likely to succeed

From John Chartres
Newcastle upon Tyne

The outcome of the local government elections in the North-east can at least be predicted with a fair degree of confidence—continued Labour control with higher majorities.

Under the post-1974 local government reorganization procedure which still puzzles the general public, and makes it difficult for political leaders to simulate any sort of enthusiasm, elections will only take place in six of the north-east districts, in the five districts and boroughs within Tyne and Wear Metropolitan County, and in Hartlepool.

These will all involve one-third of the memberships only. Because of a dispute over the Birtley ward in Gateshead, the Home Office has not announced details of new boundaries in the region so there will be no "all out" elections.

A third of the councillors in Barrow-in-Furness, which used to be in Lancashire, but is now in Cumbria, and therefore within the government's and the Labour Party's "Northern" regional structure, are also due for re-election. But in most people's minds (including the Conservative Party's), Barrow belongs to the north-west, certainly the Queen is still referred to there as the Duke of Lancaster when loyal toasts are drunk.

All five of the Tyne and Wear councils are firmly in Labour hands, and as the unemployment figures mount to levels which are frighteningly reminiscent of the 1930s, a sharp anti-Government demon-

stration by those who take the trouble to vote on May 1, seems unavoidable.

Labour's holdings in the 78-seat councils of Newcastle city, Gateshead, Sunderland, and North Tyneside, are respectively 44, 37, 53, and 44. In South Tyneside, Labour holds 41 out of 66 seats. In Hartlepool (where the unemployment rate has reached an awesome 13.5 per cent), Labour holds 23 out of 47 seats with an opposition of 16 Conservatives, three Independents, and five Ratepayers. Here, Labour could obviously well win undoubted overall control in a town where everything seems to be going wrong, even the possible loss of its pride and joy, the contract to restore the Victorian iron-clad, HMS Warrior.

Newcastle contains the ingredients for the most interesting contest. The constitution of the council is 41 Labour seats plus one casual vacancy previously held by the party, 31 Conservatives, two Independents, and three Liberals.

The city is in the forefront of the national argument about rate levels, with a 33 per cent increase this year bringing its figure to £1.76/p in the £. The Conservatives say that Newcastle is the highest rated town in the country with the increase 30 per cent above the Government's recommendation. One of the Labour candidates, maintains, however, that people do pay more in Westminster and Chelsea.

The posters are going up to advertise the "Newcastle 900" celebrations marking the anniversary of the arrival in 1080 of Robert Curthose, eldest son of William the Conqueror, who built a castle here. With these celebrations the city is putting a brave face on its many misfortunes and bustling places like the Bigg and Grainger Street markets convey a perhaps superficial impression of cheerfulness and prosperity.

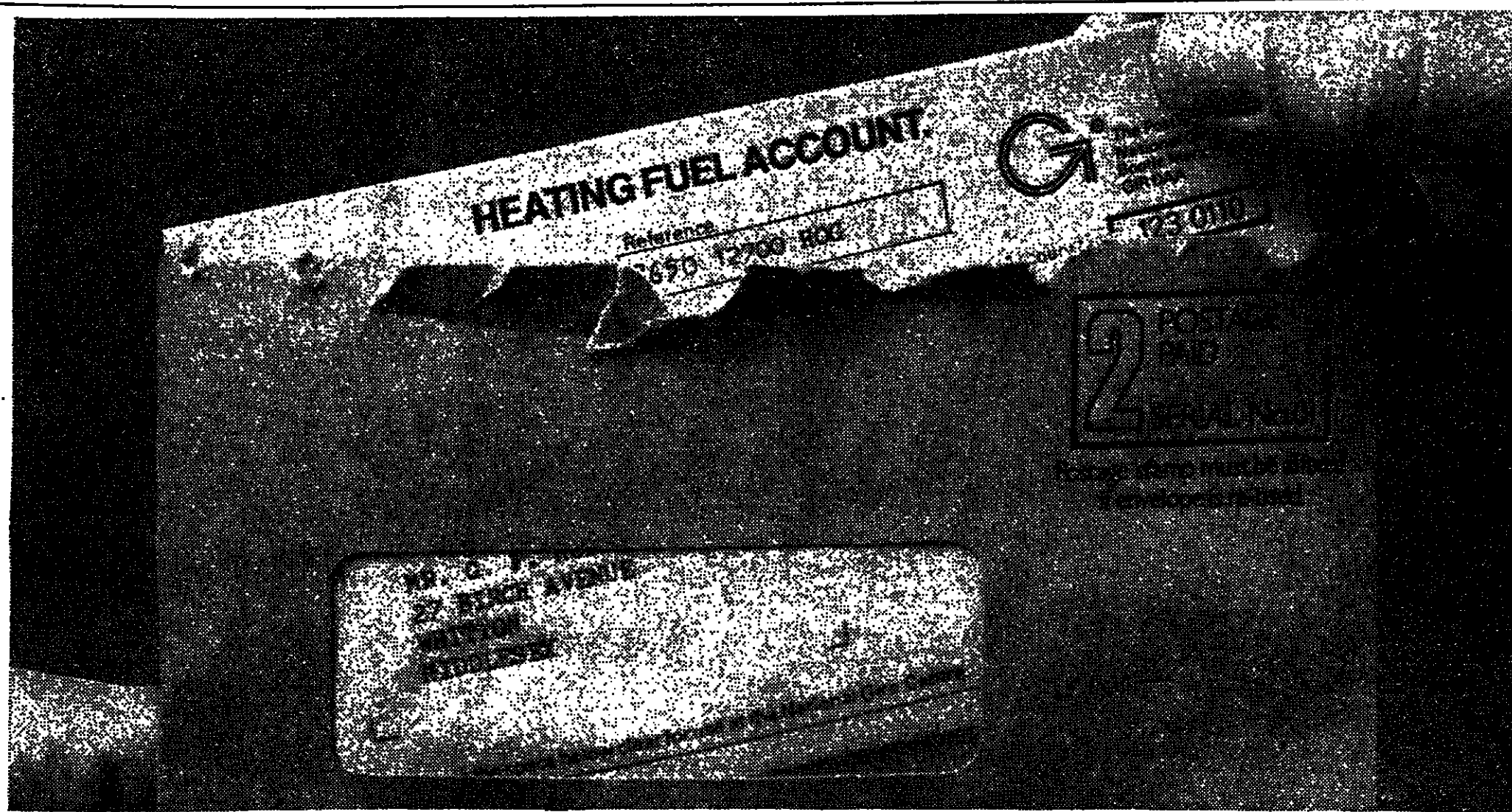
Almost daily the regional newspapers report another factory closure, and the regional unemployment figures released this week recorded a total of 132,295 out of work (9.5 per cent), the worst statistics in the United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland.

The total of workless is nearly 20,000 up on the figure recorded when the Government took power. It seems inevitable that the Conservatives will be blamed for that depressing trend, and for measures announced recently to reduce grants to such job-seeking bodies as the North of England Development Council.

The Conservative line is to fight back on the rates issue. Other rate rises include 37.3 per cent in Hartlepool, 23 per cent in North Tyneside, 28 per cent in Gateshead, 18.3 per cent in South Tyneside and 20.7 per cent in Sunderland.

The Liberals, who have three seats on Newcastle city council and four on Gateshead council, are taking a fairly realistic view of their prospects, but are fielding 30 candidates in the Tyne and Wear districts with some high hopes in Newcastle city and South Tyneside.

The total line-up includes a sprinkling of Independents, ratepayers and Ecology Party candidates, but there has been no showing from either the Communist Party or the National Front.



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HOME NEWS

Police secrecy surrounds charging of unnamed London man by Operation Countryman team

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter
The secrecy surrounding Operation Countryman, the investigation into allegations of London police corruption, has reached the pitch where it is claimed that senior Scotland Yard officers were not told for three days this week that a London man had been charged and had appeared in a London court.

No official explanation for the secrecy has been given, although unofficially "operational necessity" has been mentioned as the reason given to the Yard. A number of people are said to have been interviewed this week while the charge went unreported.

On Tuesday The Times asked Scotland Yard to confirm that an unnamed man arrested in raids by Countryman last week had been charged and appeared in court. The police denied the report, based on a well-placed source, and said their information was that the man was still assisting police with their inquiries. When Scotland Yard was told they were asked to

withhold the news from the press. Yesterday Montague Fitzmaurice, aged 45, of Corporation Street, east London, appeared at Newham West Magistrates' Court on remand charged with offences involving incitement to commit robbery.

Mr Michael Chance, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court that Mr Fitzmaurice had been remanded from Monday. Mr Fitzmaurice, flanked by two members of the Countryman team, listened as Mr Chance, legal adviser to Countryman, told the magistrates the charges involved inciting others to commit robberies over several months against Securicor vehicles and other targets.

Mr Chance said the other people were serving substantial sentences or were awaiting trial. He said Mr Fitzmaurice was not legally represented and there was no application for bail. Mr Fitzmaurice was remanded in police custody until next Monday. The charges involve seven men between September, 1978, and February, 1979. It is normal in London for

people on remand to be held in a remand prison, such as Brixton. Where a man is held in police custody it usually signifies that he is a major informant or "super grass" but a Countryman source denied yesterday that they had any such informants.

Countryman is made up of officers drafted from provincial forces and it is claimed that normal practice in the provinces is to hold someone in police custody while they still have questions to ask.

Although Metropolitan Police officers attached to the magistrates' court and the local police station knew about the charges on Monday, that information was not passed on to Scotland Yard. One senior officer there found out what was happening through the DPP's office.

Eight people, including Mr Fitzmaurice, were arrested last week by Countryman and taken to Guildford police station. None of them is or has been a police officer. Seven were released and Surrey police were aware on Tuesday that someone had been charged.

With its music and cheering, with its beer and sandwiches provided by enterprising militiamen, and with its colourful caps and scarves, the demonstration was almost a festival. In every respect this was in marked contrast to the other trade union demonstration organized beside the Elysee.

It had been called to campaign for the release of Mr Vladimir Borissov from the Soviet psychiatric hospital where he is held. His crime, according to the organizers of the demonstration is that he has tried to form a free trade union inside the Soviet Union.

The protest was aimed at Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who this morning called at the Elysee to see President Giscard d'Estaing. The demonstration spokesman was Mr Marek Halter, the writer.

While Mr Gromyko was talking to the President, he said, Soviet troops were being killed in Afghanistan, Jews were being held in the Soviet Union against their will. Dr Sakharov was in exile, and men like Mr Borissov were held prisoner in so-called psychiatric hospitals.

Mr Halter said he hoped the President was putting these points to Mr Gromyko. The demonstrators never caught a glimpse of the Soviet minister. While he whisked away from the Elysee, they bunched together by police under their solitary black banner, hidden from view in case they should embarrass the cause of détente.

Simone de Beauvoir admitted to hospital Paris, April 24.—Simone de Beauvoir has been admitted to hospital suffering from strain after the death last week of Jean-Paul Sartre, her long-time companion, sources close to the family said today.

Sartre was buried yesterday at Montparnasse cemetery in Paris. Mme de Beauvoir went to hospital a few hours later. —Reuters.

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WEST EUROPE

Contrasts as unions protest in Paris

From Ian Murray Paris, April 24
It was a day of two demonstrations in Paris. One which was thousands strong, paraded through the streets in near-carnival mood. The other, no more than a dozen in number, stood herded by police round the corner and out of sight of the main entrance to the Elysee.

The big demonstration had been called by the communist-led CGT union "to put a swift end to the anti-social aggression of the authorities and the employers".

All round France the CGT had called strikes and demonstrations to back its action, with the result that there was disruption in most nationalised industries as well as in larger engineering and textile firms.

The protest coincided with the first day of a six-day strike being organized among teachers at every level in France, which is claimed to be the biggest action of its kind in the country for 10 years.

The demonstration was more of a stroll than a march, with police discreetly out of sight. With its music and cheering, with its beer and sandwiches provided by enterprising militiamen, and with its colourful caps and scarves, the demonstration was almost a festival. In every respect this was in marked contrast to the other trade union demonstration organized beside the Elysee.

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Mr Gromyko, left, and President Giscard d'Estaing during their meeting at the Elysee Palace yesterday.

Mr Gromyko meets plain speaking at Elysee

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, April 24
Ritual references to cordiality have been lacking from official comment on Mr Andrei Gromyko's talks in Paris, suggesting that there must have been a good deal of plain speaking.

Today the Soviet Foreign Minister met President Giscard d'Estaing, first in private, then over a working luncheon, with both Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, and ambassadors of the two countries present. As the left of the Elysee Palace, Mr Gromyko described the meeting as "useful and constructive".

According to Elysee Palace sources, views were expressed frankly and clearly. On the central problem of Afghanistan, there was no sign of any change in the Soviet stand. Mr Giscard d'Estaing and Mr Gromyko did not confine themselves to their subject alone, but surveyed world problems generally.

The talks, including the lunch, lasted three and a half hours, longer than was originally scheduled. Mr Gromyko told reporters afterwards: "The Soviet Union is firm in its pursuit of détente and in the quest to overcome the difficulties which have arisen in international developments, but as is well known, everything does not depend on us. We hope France will work in the same direction."

There was some embarrassment in French circles that Pierre Messiaigne, the French Agriculture Minister, had allowed the document to go through in the small hours without making sufficiently clear its unsatisfactory nature from France's point of view. That was charitably attributed to fatigue.

The document declares that a farm price settlement must include "some increase in prices", measures "to start the restoration of a better balance in certain markets, in particular for milk", and the observance of budgetary constraints. But this simply conceals the wide gap between Britain and most of the member states.

Britain insists that there must be price freezes on milk, sugar and wine, which are in large surplus, and for other products an increase of no more on average than the 2.4 per cent proposed by the European Commission. Most other governments want rises of up to 6 per cent at least.

The Agriculture Ministers did agree, however, to meet again on May 6 in Luxembourg, little more than a week after the summit. It seems possible, therefore, that the French any change tactics and try to make any budget relief approved for Britain at the summit conditional on agreement on agricultural farm price level increases later.

On the other matter which the French attach high importance—the protection of their sheep farmers—the Agriculture Ministers again made no progress.

The dispute over fisheries policy, which France and other member states are anxious to see resolved, appears to be less important than solving the budget problem. A statement of good intent would probably suffice.

The French pressure for higher farm prices puts Mr Thatcher in an unenviable dilemma. If she gives in it will lead to extra costs on the EEC budget, and since Britain, with a relatively small farm population, benefits little from agricultural expenditure, it is not a contribution to the budget which would be further increased.

The value of any reduction in the estimated net contribution of £1,100m that might be agreed at the summit could be offset by a high farm price settlement.

The British economy had characteristics which distinguished it from other member countries. She bought more outside the Community than they did, and her agriculture made up only 2.3 per cent of her national wealth. She had, since entry, begun to reorient her trade currents, but there was a way to go yet.

I asked the minister about a fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy that some modifications were needed, he replied, but there was certainly no question of a fundamental reform.

"No one today denies that the CAP is a cornerstone of the construction of the Community. It is not only essential for countries with a strong agricultural potential and for the farmers themselves; it is also for the whole Community, to whom it guarantees security of food supplies. It is its 'green power'."

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Cold killed the steel works' cats

From Our Correspondent Sheffield
Most of the thousands of work cats which died during the recent strike were victims not of hunger but of cold.

Strikers held collections to buy food for well-toiled work cats, and middle management, who worked during the strike, volunteered to feed them, but beating was turned off and furnaces shut down during the 13-week stoppage.

Dozens of animals were saved after the British Steel Corporation donated thermal wool and volunteers used it to make insulated cat boxes.

Mrs Myra Hamond, organizer of Cats in Industry, the industrial section of the Cat Protection League, said yesterday: "Sadly the animals must run into thousands. There were 2,000 works' cats in the Sheffield area alone, over 500 at Scunthorpe, 400 at Corby, and 300 at Southwold. Of these, about a third died."

In some areas the works' cat population has been wiped out completely. Although cold was the main killer, many died after eating poisonous substances which they would not normally come into contact.

Some were lucky. "Apart from those saved in the insulated boxes, some men took home their favourite cat for the duration of the strike," she said. "Many have decided to keep them as house pets."

Restaurant at castle A restaurant will be opened this year in the Great Hall of the fourteenth-century Northborough Castle, near Peterborough.

Growers' veiled threat to French apples

By Hugh Clayton Agriculture Correspondent
French and English apple growers failed yesterday to end their dispute about sales in Britain of Golden Delicious apples from France.

Their talks founded on the question of curbing imports and ended up with a veiled threat from English growers to prevent apples from passing through ports in this country.

English growers want an unqualified cut in the number of French apples sold here, but their French counterparts have agreed to consider only restrictions on the type of apple sent to Britain.

The point was obscured in a joint statement issued at the end of the talks in London. The statement said merely that "French producers were not able to impose quantitative restrictions on French imports into the United Kingdom."

Mr Dan Neuteboom, chairman of the apple and pear committee of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, made it clear after the talks that English growers were sceptical of cutting imports through curbs on the type of apple allowed in.

"We have expressed the view to our French colleagues that there will be no improvement in the measures that are going to be taken do result in a substantial reduction in imports," he said.

Union members wanted an agreement by mid-June, so that imports would be curbed before the next marketing season. With that in mind, a pact with French growers, Mr Neuteboom continued, "we cannot guarantee the safe arrival of their consignments in the United Kingdom."

Lifting of hygiene control on milk imports opposed

By Our Agriculture Correspondent
Milk imports should be banned until EEC hygiene regulations were harmonized, health officers said yesterday. The Environmental Health Association said in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture "it is right to retain the present controls and restrictions."

Ministers face pressure from British grocers and consumer groups and from French farmers to lift health restrictions which prevent imported milk from being sold in Britain.

Evidence given to the committee yesterday will be welcomed by British farmers and dairymen who oppose any weakening of British rules against milk imports. They fear cut-price competition and the introduction of cattle diseases like foot-and-mouth.

Food Report, page 9

Korchnoi shares chess lead with two rivals

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent
Yesterday was a rest day before the final round in the Phillips and Drew Kings tournament at County Hall, London.

However, the necessary clearing-up of all the adjourned games before the last round, having been fully effected, it became clear that the destination of the first prize was within the range of four players: Andersson, Korchnoi and Miles, who have eight points, and Sosonko, who has 7½. A winning score has to be at least 8½. Andersson is playing Korchnoi in the last round today.

Budget dispute delay likely as ministers fail to settle farm prices

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, April 24
A delay in the settlement of Britain's budget dispute with the EEC, until the June summit meeting in Venice at the earliest, appeared almost certain after the failure of the agricultural ministers here early today to agree on the level of this year's farm prices.

The outlook for next week's summit in Luxembourg at which the British are hoping for a breakthrough on the budget, looked so bleak that the possibility of a further postponement of the meeting was said to be possible, though unlikely.

In a statement issued yesterday, President Giscard d'Estaing of France said that settlement of the budget dispute and other issues at the summit was out of the question without a prior understanding on farm prices that required no more than the political blessing of heads of government.

After labouring through the night, Mr Peter Walker, the British Agriculture Minister, and his community colleagues, finally approved an anodyne document for transmission to the summit. The document attempted little more than a

summary of the existing differences. There was some embarrassment in French circles that Pierre Messiaigne, the French Agriculture Minister, had allowed the document to go through in the small hours without making sufficiently clear its unsatisfactory nature from France's point of view. That was charitably attributed to fatigue.

The document declares that a farm price settlement must include "some increase in prices", measures "to start the restoration of a better balance in certain markets, in particular for milk", and the observance of budgetary constraints. But this simply conceals the wide gap between Britain and most of the member states.

Britain insists that there must be price freezes on milk, sugar and wine, which are in large surplus, and for other products an increase of no more on average than the 2.4 per cent proposed by the European Commission. Most other governments want rises of up to 6 per cent at least.

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Thatcher silence on tactics

By Fred Emery Political Editor
Mrs Thatcher's refusal to have her hands tied in negotiations over a demand for a reduction in the EEC budget contribution at this week's summit meeting of Community leaders in Luxembourg provoked a "sell out" Labour MPs in the Commons yesterday.

Five times Mr Callaghan, Leader of Opposition, demanded that Mrs Thatcher stick to her guns, she would not "sign away the rights of the British people to surplus. Five Mrs Thatcher dodged question.

So too, later did Mr Walker, the Minister of Culture, in spite of the exhortation, "we do fear a sell-out of the summit."

The Opposition's man on agriculture, the Opposition probably the better of the Co knock-about. But Mrs Thatcher survived the onslaught of loose words, which will have to present any two decent sentences as a "sell out" she can get another matter.

The Government is at another name at Luxembourg without being prepared, Thatcher said, "agriculture barrier" agriculture rises in return for B budget settlement, she urged to settle other "within the same seal good Communist spirit."

This is very different her approach at Dublin demanding "our money" she would not "sign away the rights of the British people to surplus. Five Mrs Thatcher dodged question.

So too, later did Mr Walker, the Minister of Culture, in spite of the exhortation, "we do fear a sell-out of the summit."

Moves to boost home ownership

By Our Planning Reporter
A seven-point programme for encouraging wider home ownership and in the process bringing more unused land and empty buildings into use, was outlined yesterday by Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction.

The proposals encapsulate previous Government policy statements which will be given legislative effect when the Housing Bill is enacted this year.

Moves to boost home ownership

Conservative emphasis on an expanding private sector and ameliorate hardship caused by the steep decline in council house building.

Mr Stanley listed the seven points as:

Moves to boost home ownership

The sale of council houses to private tenants.

The sale of land owned by local authorities to private builders.

Moves to boost home ownership

Building low-cost "starter homes" in partnership with private builders.

Improving homes for sale.

Moves to boost home ownership

The sale of council houses to private tenants.

OVERSEAS

Gagan and
Policies are
similarDavid Cross
London, April 24

Americans who have seen George Bush, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency as a liberal, will find that Mr. Ronald Reagan's policies are similar to those of the president-elect. The two men have been closely associated for years, and their policies are remarkably similar. Mr. Reagan's policies are similar to those of the president-elect. The two men have been closely associated for years, and their policies are remarkably similar. Mr. Reagan's policies are similar to those of the president-elect. The two men have been closely associated for years, and their policies are remarkably similar.

Republican will run
as independent
for US PresidencyFrom Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 24

Mr. John Anderson, a Republican Congressman from Illinois, announced today that he has decided to run for the Presidency as an independent. He has been contesting the Republican nomination, but said that he could no longer hope to win it. He said: "Too many people in our nation are disillusioned with the prospect of choices our party structures are offering. The result is frustration, apathy and despair. I believe that growing disaffection with the political process poses a far greater threat to the stability of our democratic institutions than what some are sure to charge is an oblique, perhaps frontal attack on the two-party system."

challenges we confront in the 80s.

Mr. Anderson declared his candidacy for the Republican nomination in the same room in the National Press Club here last June. He got a far bigger crowd today. Mr. Anderson campaigned actively in six primaries and won none of them, but from the first battle, in the Iowa caucuses in January, he demonstrated that he was indeed different from his rivals. He did very well in the primaries in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont, and although he lost his native Illinois by 10 points to Mr. Reagan, he won far more votes than anyone had expected early in the campaign. He is conservative in economic policies, though not so extreme as Mr. Reagan, a liberal in social issues and a moderate in foreign affairs. He has acquired a large crowd of young and enthusiastic volunteers, rather like Senator Eugene McCarthy did with his "children's crusade" in 1968. He will need all of them—first of all to raise money. Mr. Anderson chose to run as an independent rather than to found a third party (as Mr. George Wallace did in 1968) for legal reasons. He stands a better chance, as an independent, of getting on the ballot in the various states.

IOC keeps
door open for
individual
athletesFrom Alan McGregor
Lausanne, April 24

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee has not finally closed the door on the possibility of individual athletes competing in the Moscow Games. The question will be reviewed when it next meets here on June 9, once the number of participating countries at Moscow is clear. The deadline for formal acceptance of invitations is May 24. Mr. Lance Gross, New Zealand member of the nine-man board, said before leaving for home today that while the "present position of the sports federations was against individual participation" it would be unwise to say this is final in any circumstances.

Some national Olympic committees may say: "We're not going to officially promote a team but if any of our competitors want to go we have no objection." While he did not think participation at Moscow would be more than 50 per cent "at the best", he believed the protocol change endorsed by the IOC would have some effect. "Some governments have told us they will not allow flags or anthems to be used but are perfectly happy to allow representatives of their athletic bodies to take part in the Games provided they do not parade the nation's acceptance of the fact they are there," he said.

He indicated that the Greek Government's proposal for giving the Olympic Games an extra-territorial permanent site in Greece had been well received, and the plan would be studied. He said that East Germany's proposal for an extra-territorial permanent site in Greece had been well received, and the plan would be studied. He said that East Germany's proposal for an extra-territorial permanent site in Greece had been well received, and the plan would be studied.



Siamese twins Chang Chung-yi (centre) and Chang Chung-jen, of Taiwan, learn to walk with artificial legs in a Taiwan hospital. The operation to separate them was carried out last year.

KGB 'used
toxic gas
to disperse
Baptists'

By Our Foreign Staff

The KGB used toxic gas to break up a religious gathering in the Ukraine, Pastor Vins, the exiled Soviet Baptist leader, said in London yesterday. The incident occurred in August last year at an illegal meeting attended by 150 Baptists.

It was among a number of examples of Soviet persecution of the church described by Pastor Vins to illustrate the active disavowal in which the Baptist community of 400,000 is held by the Soviet authorities. He said a gas canister was thrown after a KGB order to disperse had been ignored. It caused vomiting and discomfort, and in some cases, unconsciousness for several hours.

The pastor, who is in London to publicize the plight of Christians in the Soviet Union, will meet Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street on Tuesday and seek her support. Since he was stripped of Soviet citizenship and deported in April, 1979, he has lived in the United States. He served two prison sentences amounting to nine years for his beliefs while he was a minister of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Kiev.

Pastor Vins said intimidation against Baptists who refused to register as such with the authorities had significantly increased since the Olympic Games had become an issue in the West. Of the 11 members of the illegal Baptist Council, eight were in jail and the others were in hiding. There were now 60 pastors in prison, compared with 35 at the beginning of the year.

Baptists had been warned not to take advantage of the influx of foreign visitors to demonstrate their faith and many Baptists would be barred from the vicinity of the games. The Baptists applauded the boycott campaign by the British and United States Governments because the games would be used by the Russians to give an impression of a free society, Pastor Vins said.

ed fate of independents running for President
e problems facing Mr AndersonTrick Brogan
London, April 24

Mr. Anderson has been five "third candidates" running for the Presidency this century, not a socialist, prohibitionist, or a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He has been five "third candidates" running for the Presidency this century, not a socialist, prohibitionist, or a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He has been five "third candidates" running for the Presidency this century, not a socialist, prohibitionist, or a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He has been five "third candidates" running for the Presidency this century, not a socialist, prohibitionist, or a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

is hard to think of anyone who seriously thinks he can win, though there are plenty of nervous Democrats who think that he might throw the election to Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Follette ran because he could not stomach the candidate his party chose on the 103rd ballot at the nominating convention. Neither could he possibly support Calvin Coolidge, one of the dimmest of long procession of dim Republican Presidents, who is, however, a hero of Ronald Reagan's.

US Elections

convention. Neither could he possibly support Calvin Coolidge, one of the dimmest of long procession of dim Republican Presidents, who is, however, a hero of Ronald Reagan's.

Mr. Anderson is appalled at the choice likely to be offered the electorate, between President Carter and Mr. Reagan. He has heard voices, promising him that America wants something different and that he is the man.

His first problem will be money. The Federal Government pays for the candidates of the two main parties, and third party candidates, and will reimburse Mr. Anderson for his electoral expenses according to the proportion of the vote he gets. Meanwhile, he has to raise the money himself, and the law forbids him accepting large donations from individuals.

His next problem, and the one that has provoked his decision to take the plunge now, rather than wait until after the party conventions, is that it is a lengthy, expensive and difficult process to get his name on the ballot in the various states.

He has already missed the filing deadlines of a number of states, including Ohio and Maryland, and must file this week to catch New Jersey. He can be certain that rival supporters, particularly those of President Carter, will spare no legal effort to keep him off the ballot in many states as possible, and he must therefore have competent lawyers in every state to protect his interests.

The deeper question is the validity of his basic assumption, that the country must be offered a wider choice than that provided by the two established parties. The evidence of the states where he ran for the Republican nomination, especially his native Illinois, where he won 37 per cent of the Republican vote in Mr. Reagan's 48 per cent, is that the country now regards him as an irrelevance.

When Theodore Roosevelt appeared at the Bull Moose convention in 1912, the delegates cheered him for 25 minutes. Mr. Anderson arouses no such fervour, even among the most faithful and youthful of his supporters. His only hope is a national catastrophe, the sort of disaster that will break the habits of a century.

tars still seek return home

ine Moorhead
London, April 24

Since 1944, the Crimean Muslim Tatars, people, ordered from the Crimea during the occupation homeland. The report published by a Minority Rights Group (MRG) report published that they are still fighting to return to the Crimea, despite an official of political rehabilitation.

Crimean Tatars, Volga and Meschians des-

programme of dis-

against three

minorities, all rehabilitated nevertheless, the dis-

people after 30 years

ous campaigning.

Crimean Tatars, once a

le force capable of ran-

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their "golden age" came

and with the purges of

"bourgeois nationalists" of the late twenties. In 1944, prompted by Stalin's fears about the loyalty of his non-Russian subjects, the authorities deported the Crimean Tatars, over 200,000, with considerable brutality; as many as half the population lost their lives in the deportation to the Ural and Central Asia and in the following bleak months of the years of campaigning, which included petitions signed by over three million people, finally secured their rehabilitation in 1957. The joy that followed was short-lived: within a couple of years it became clear that rehabilitation was not going to mean either a return to national autonomy nor even permission to go home.

The report says that the Tatars attempting to settle in the Crimea have been harassed, denied jobs, prevented from buying houses. Those settling illegally have had their homes knocked down by bulldozers. Leading campaigners today, says the report, continue to be tried on charges of "violation of passport regulations" or "resisting the police".

The Meschians are a more fragmented group suffering the same form of discrimination, but many of them uncertain about whether they are Georgians or Turks.

The Soviet Germans, on the other hand, most of them descendants of settlers who came to Tsarist Russia well over a hundred years ago, are no content with the partial nature of their rehabilitation in 1954, and are seeking to return to their Volga German homeland. Their history is similar to that of the Tatars: deported to Siberia and Northern Kazakhstan from a flourishing homeland as suspected German sympathizers during the Second World War, they were rehabilitated in 1954.

Since then, according to the MRG report, material available to the MRG report authors, Ann Sheehy and Bohdan Nahaylo, the Soviet Germans have been blocked in all attempts to return home, and as a result their demands for the reestablishment of an autonomous republic are yielding to demands for the right to emigrate to Germany.

The Crimean Tatars, Volga Germans, and Meschians (MRG Report No 6... 36 Craven Street WC2 7SP).

S Korea miners
accept deal
and end strike

Seoul, April 24.—Miners who rioted over wage demands, killing a policeman and injuring 70 others, accepted a compromise agreement today to end South Korea's most violent industrial dispute.

After accepting the agreement, the miners started clearing road blocks and barricades round Sabuk, where 50,000 residents were virtually held hostage during the siege that began with a riot on Sunday.

During Sunday's rioting, about 3,500 miners and their families attacked the town.

Under the agreement, the miners will receive a 20 per cent pay increase backdated to January 1 as decided earlier but will have their annual bonus increased from the present 250 per cent to 400 per cent. They also receive insurance of another pay increase if coal prices are increased.—UPI.

22 more die as
violence grows
in El Salvador

San Salvador, April 24.—Another 22 persons, including two policemen, have died in El Salvador, the authorities said.

The 22 deaths—and the 24 deaths reported in the previous day—marked a significant worsening in the level of political violence.

The bodies of four men aged from 17 to 24 were found outside San Miguel, a short distance from where a Treasury police patrol was ambushed last night.

The bodies of eight men, shot through the head with their arms tied behind their backs and showing signs of torture, were found round four small towns in northern El Salvador.

The ruling junta has announced that it will establish diplomatic relations with communist nations in Europe, but not with Cuba which is said to be supplying men and weapons to leftist guerrillas.—UPI.

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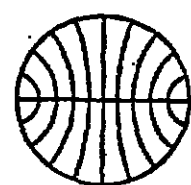
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OVERSEAS

Both Houses of Parliament express grave concern at diplomatic rift with Riyadh after showing of film

Ministers rebuke TV authorities after expulsion of ambassador

From Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Senior ministers in both the House of Lords and the Commons yesterday called on the broadcasting authorities in the United Kingdom rapidly to put their house in order to avoid future incidents of the kind that has led to the expulsion of Mr James Craig, the British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

He was ordered to leave the country on Wednesday in retaliation for the film *Death of a Princess*, which was shown by ATV on April 9.

Although calls for various forms of censorship were firmly resisted by both Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, the sharp rebukes delivered to the television companies were of a strength that they will find difficult to ignore.

In statements to both Houses, the two ministers left no doubt of the Government's grave concern over the breach in relations and there were assurances that everything possible would be done to heal the rift quickly so that the minimum disruption would take place.

Lord Carrington appealed to the 30,000 British people working in Saudi Arabia not to be deterred by these events, and Sir Ian told the Commons that there was no reason to believe that British subjects would be less welcome in that country than they were before the latest developments.

Lord Carrington said that the United Nations and Saudi Arabia shared a common concern that the vital Gulf area should develop in stability and peace without the interference

from outside powers. External threats to the area meant that the two countries should be drawing closer together instead of drifting apart.

Sir Ian told MPs that the Government would regret it deeply if this country's close relations with Saudi Arabia were damaged by an event for which neither Government was responsible. He emphasized that this was an incident outside the British Government's control.

However, while emphasizing the importance of a media free from government control, there was no reluctance on the part of both ministers and backbenchers to declare their displeasure and disgust at what has happened.

Lord Carrington said that in the light of what had happened, those who produced these programmes would do well to have

a good look at the consequences of what they were doing.

In the Commons, Sir Ian said that while the Government was careful not to interfere with the freedom of communications in this country, that freedom must be balanced by a degree of responsibility by those people who made films which were shown abroad.

From the Conservative backbenches Mr Eddowes, MP for Bury St Edmunds, gave a warning that one of the conditions of press freedom was that there must also be responsibility by the media. Another Conservative backbencher, Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, said that the producer of the film, Mr Anthony Thomas, had a history of producing inaccurate and biased films.

He urged Sir Ian to make approaches to the Independent Broadcasting Authority to ensure "that these left wingers" did not have the power to undermine the best interests of the United Kingdom.

From the Labour backbenches, Mr Andrew Faulds, MP for Warley East, spoke of "the irresponsibility and self-interest of some of the bright boys in the media, both in TV and in the public prints. They made political attacks under the guise of entertainment damaging British and Western interests."

However, together with the anger at the television authorities, there was a word of caution from Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs. While endorsing the wish for close relations with Saudi Arabia, he urged the Government to make plain to the Saudi Government that the press and television in this country were not subject to ministerial dictation.

While we should respect the culture and traditions of their country, Mr Shore said, we should expect an equal respect for our own traditions of which freedom of the press and information was a vital part.

Sir Ian replied that even before the film was shown it had been made clear to the Saudi Government that the British Government did not control the media and had no wish to do so.

Later it was confirmed that Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, and members of the select committee on foreign affairs, who were due to visit Saudi Arabia next week, would not now be going.

King Husain calls on EEC to hasten its plan for Palestinians

From Christopher Walker, Amman, April 24

On the eve of the newly intensified negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, King Husain of Jordan today made a strong plea for the EEC to launch its new peace initiative in an effort to save the region from what he described as "a state of confusion, turmoil and growing anger."

In an interview with *The Times*, the King claimed that his "worst fears and suspicions" about the deadlocked Camp David peace process had come true. He called on the European states, including Britain, formally to unveil their much-cavilled plans for a settlement in the United Nations resolution 242 which would recognize the rights of the Palestinians.

Speaking in his spacious hillside palace overlooking Amman, King Husain said that Jordan's relations with America had sunk to their lowest ebb in the 27 years of her rule. He emphasized that Europe had a more valuable role to play in the search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East than either America or the Soviet Union.

"With all due respect to the two major powers, many of us are beginning to feel that there are also others who can contribute towards a solution and have a right to do so," he said.

May's visit has revived the recent past which he blamed for the crisis, "had been the lack of participation of certain countries in reaching a solution."

The King urged both America and the Soviet Union to come forward and join the plan now under consideration by the EEC, adding that without Soviet participation no lasting settlement to the Middle East problem is feasible. He has disclosed that Jordan was for the first time seriously considering buying Russian armaments.

"I feel that Europe has closer links with this area in terms of its destiny and its future," he explained. "Europe is less likely to be under pressure, it has more continuity and more of an emphasis on principles."

The King bitterly criticized the problems caused by electoral considerations in American policy.

The EEC leaders have indicated that they will wait at least until the May 25 deadline for agreement in the Egyptian-Israeli autonomy talks before formally unveiling their Middle East plans.

But today King Husain insisted that more urgent action was needed as it had become obvious that the Camp David process had "run out of steam."

Both the King and Mr Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharif, his new Prime Minister have made it clear in interviews that any lingering American or Egyptian hopes that Jordan may still be lured by the Camp David process are based on wishful thinking.

There is considerable anger at all levels of the Jordanian Government about what is seen as repeated efforts by the

Tehran threat to stop all Gulf oil traffic in event of blockade

Tehran, April 24.—Mr Sadeq Otobadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister today threatened that Iran would retaliate against a United States blockade of its oil ports by stopping its oil exports from sending oil through the Gulf.

"If sanctions or anything else keep Iranian oil from leaving the Gulf, no other nation would be able to ship any oil through the Gulf," Mr Otobadeh told a press conference.

The United States has considered blockading the waterway to prevent tankers carrying Iranian oil from getting through.

More than half of the West's oil imports pass through the Gulf, mainly from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and Iran.

Asked if Iran would stop Iraq exporting through the Gulf, Mr Otobadeh said "Yes," although he refused to disclose how. His remarks were interpreted as the first direct threat of Iranian retaliation in the event of disruption of Iranian oil exports.

Iran has reacted to American sanctions with moves to increase trade links with the Soviet bloc. The Government yesterday announced an oil contract with Romania and said others with eastern Europe were in the offing.

The Foreign Minister blamed the United States for recent violence at Iran's universities which have involved clashes between radical Islamic students and leftists.

"The CIA is responsible for 90 per cent of leftist action all over the world, including Iran," Mr Otobadeh said.

Ambassador returning: Sir John Graham, the British Ambassador to Iran, is due to return to his post in Tehran in the next day or two, after the decision by the European Council of Ministers that ambassadors would report to the Iranian President on the outcome of their meeting (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Sir John must be getting quite used to the journey. He came to London for consultations earlier in the month, then went back to Tehran for a week and returned to London again this week.

Although the number of staff at the embassy is being sharply reduced, the Ambassador may remain at his post. The communiqué issued after the council meeting seemed to leave the decision open on the level of representation to be maintained. It stated that Ambassadors were being instructed to return to Tehran before May 17, the date set for the imposition of sanctions, to "follow the situation" and to try to improve the living conditions of the American hostages.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office is anxiously pondering the implications of the Saudi decision to send Britain's Ambassador home. No date has been set for Mr James Craig's return.



Mrs Louisa Kennedy, wife of one of the Tehran embassy hostages, met the Prime Minister at No 10 Downing Street yesterday.

Saudi move over envoy made under pressure

By David Watts

Saudi Arabia's decision to ask Britain to recall its ambassador in Jiddah was apparently taken after consultation with other Islamic governments and is the expression of widespread anger in the Arab world, according to Arab sources in London.

Further sanctions are likely against any other country which shows the film, up to and including a demand for the recall of ambassadors. Probably further measures will be announced after the meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers to be held about the middle of May. Other countries where television stations are planning to show the film at present are the United States and Norway.

Though the decision to demand the recall of Mr James Craig, the British Ambassador, was within the purview of the Saudi royal family who felt directly insulted by the film *Death of a Princess*, there was considerable pressure both within Saudi Arabia and outside it for action against Britain. As guardians of the holiest places in Islam the Saudi royal family have been at pains of late to present a more Islamic face to the world both at home and abroad.

Fundamentalist Islamic critics of the film are, however, unanimous not only in their assessment of the production as anti-Islamic but also in their surprise that the Saudis are drawing attention to an incident which is still controversial within the Islamic world.

The execution of the princess was in violation of Islamic law and the Saudis have never provided the rest of the Arab world with any explanation of why the princess was not given a proper trial nor why King Khalid, as leader of the Saudi royal clan, did not prevail upon Prince Muhammad, the princess's father, to punish her in discretion in some other way. The Saudi complaint that the princess wanted to marry a commoner is not a violation of Koranic law.

U.S. considers: A State Department spokesman said that Washington had been in contact with the Saudis and was listening to their concern about the planned showing of the film in America early next month. Our Washington Correspondent writes: The State Department was looking into the matter, he added.

Kurdish plea for Red Cross action to end fighting

Continued from page 1

In a possible sign that the Kurds were heavily on the defensive the Society of Kurds Resident in Tehran issued a plea today for the Red Cross and the United Nations Human Rights Commission to intervene in the fighting.

Sbaikh Ezzedin Hosseini, the Kurdish religious leader, also called for help against the "brutal actions . . . of warmongers."

The fighting first flared up when, according to the Government, it began moving units to bolster Iranian defences in

E German trade agreement may bypass sanctions

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, April 24

Less than 24 hours after the EEC governments threatened sanctions against Iran, a trade agreement between Iran and East Germany was signed in Berlin.

The agreement, which has been under negotiation for a few weeks, is believed to provide a framework for expanding trade between East Germany and Iran especially if the West should impose its sanctions.

It would pave the way for Iran to buy at least some of the goods made inaccessible by the sanctions, such as machinery, and at the same time possibly enable East Germany to buy some of the oil it badly needs, Western observers say.

The East German economy has been seriously hit by the world energy crisis.

Mr Benn sees Britain being sucked into war

Britain is in danger of being sucked into a world war over the Iran crisis, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the former Labour Cabinet Minister, told the Scottish TUC at Perth yesterday.

The story of what is happening in Iran is not that being relayed to the British people by the press and on the radio, he said. In its campaign for rearmament, the British Government was guilty of the "most breathtaking hypocrisy and double standards."

Mr Benn, MP for Bristol South East, has personal knowledge of Iran after being Energy Secretary. He said he did not wish to defend the detention of the American hostages, but the people must be warned what was really happening.

"The Americans put the Shah back on the throne and the West armed the Shah—no doubt there were intelligence arrangements between the CIA, Sadat and maybe other intelligence services."

"When I read of trade sanctions and the possibility of mining the Persian Gulf, I think of what the situation could be within a matter of hours. The Iranians are very well equipped with weapons. We sold them to them."

"If the Iranians were to take over the Saudi Arabian pipelines and the United States were to be deprived of oil, that would inevitably lead to American intervention in Saudi Arabia and Soviet intervention in Iran as the situation became catastrophically dangerous."

"Then, the F111 bombers on our airfields, which are not subject to British veto, soon to be replaced by missiles not subject to British veto, could suddenly be sucked into world conflict and confrontation."

Jewish militants on rampage in Arab cities

From Moshe Brillman, Tel Aviv, April 24

Boogymen believed to have been Gush Emunim militants went on the rampage through the Arab cities of Ramallah and El Bireh early today, hurling stones through the windows of scores of cars, homes and shops.

The raid was apparently a reprisal for repeated Arab attacks on Israeli vehicles passing through the twin cities north of Jerusalem.

The assault began in midday and Arab residents said they were kept awake for 24 hours by shots fired into the air and the tinkle of breaking glass.

Israeli soldiers and police moved into the towns and arrested four Israelis in a tender with a crate of stones and hammers. Military government headquarters said the suspects were from Bethel, a Gush Emunim settlement. They said the prisoners were not cooperating in their investigation.

Arab sources said four Israeli cars had been involved in the action.

Several West Bank mayors met in Ramallah today in defiance of a ban ordered by the military governor.

UN censures Israel over Lebanon foray

New York, April 24.—Security Council today censured Israel for its military incursion into southern Lebanon, an act of aggression against the United Nations in the area, since which were killed in actions.

The United States abstained in the vote after Mr. De Mott, the chief aide to Secretary of State Alexander Haig, said the resolution was "unbalanced."

The Soviet Union and Germany also abstained. 12 other members voted in resolution, drafted during a week-long session, to condemn Israel's incursion into Lebanon and demand that it withdraw its forces.

The council deplored the "unprovoked" incursion and the "unjustified" killing of Lebanese civilians. It also demanded that Israel's forces be withdrawn from Lebanon and that it respect the sovereignty of the Lebanese people.

Two Arab soldiers of the Lebanese army were killed in the action, according to a Lebanese official.

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Japan announces partial economic boycott
From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, April 24
Japan, the key to the success of American sanctions against Tehran, imposed a partial economic boycott on Iran today, instructing large trading concerns and business leaders to refrain from entering into new export contracts with Iranian officials or companies.
At the same time the Japanese Government today announced that "several" Japanese diplomats will be recalled from Tehran and all Iranians will now have to obtain visas for entry into Japan.
Officials claimed here today that the economic boycott will emerge as a greater blow to the revolutionary government in Tehran because Japan is Iran's largest trading partner. Japan's initiative, designed to help the United States secure the freedom of the hostages in Tehran, was announced this morning after Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, met key members of the Cabinet to discuss the Iranian crisis.
Japan was Iran's largest supplier of machinery, cars, steel, clothing and synthetic textiles. Japanese exports to Iran, worth \$925m (£420m) last year, rose to a record level of \$239m last month.
Japan was also the world's largest consumer of Iranian oil until the authorities in Tehran suspended supplies on Monday because Japanese companies refused to pay the higher price of \$35 a barrel.
Japanese Government officials said the sanctions would not cover small companies because Japan's six largest trading companies account for nearly 80 per cent of exports to Iran. The measures also exclude exports of food, chinaware, general merchandise and capital equipment required for the half-completed \$3,500m Japanese-Iranian petrochemical plant at Bandar Khomeini.
The Mitsui Corporation, which has a 50 per cent share in the plant had been planning to send 300 engineers back to the site to resume construction work.
Yesterday, Mr Reza Salami, Iran's acting Finance Minister, warned the Japanese Government that the future of the venture would be "placed in jeopardy" if Japan applied sanctions against Iran.
Adding that the Cabinet today Mr Ohira said Japan was willing to make sacrifices for its "friend and major ally" but he said his government opposed any form of American military action against Iran.
Bankers in Tokyo told *The Times* today that the Bank Masak, Iran's central bank, has been withdrawing millions of dollars of matured deposits from Japan.
"The level of Iranian deposits has declined from \$700m to \$300m since the beginning of the year," a senior official in the Bank of Japan said.
Mr Tamio Amau, official spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, announced today that staff in the Japanese Embassy in Tehran would be reduced from the 15 it now has, but officials refused to reveal how many diplomats will be recalled.
Mr Amau said the partial embargo against Iran would be reviewed if the American hostages in Tehran were not released by May 17—the deadline set by the EEC before it imposed the second phase of sanctions.

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OVERSEAS

Pakistani cabinet shuffle announced

Islamabad, April 24.—President Zia-ul-Haq reshuffled his cabinet today after yesterday's announcement of Mr. Muhammad Asghar Khan as Prime Minister, but the main portfolios unchanged.

New ministers include General Zia-ul-Haq, a disgraced former minister, who is now in the Government as an attached to the Prime Minister's Office. He also became director of the ruling Pakistan People's Party, replacing Mr. Muhammad Asghar Khan, who was ousted from the post of Prime Minister on February 26.

Shahid Bhatti, the Minister of Defence, replaced Mr. Asghar Khan. Mr. Bhatti replaced Mr. Hedi Nouri, who was Minister of Defence and party secretary. Mr. Nouri died of a stroke on February 26.

Mr. Asghar Khan also strongly opposed Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan and said that Islamabad should resume direct dialogue with the Kabul regime to stop the influx of Afghan refugees and to return those who had come.

He said the refugees were creating grave problems for Pakistan and alleged that the Government had encouraged them to use Pakistan as their base for operations against the Kabul regime. What was happening in Afghanistan, he asserted, was its own affair and Pakistan should not get involved.

Mr. Asghar Khan also said that he was not justifying the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, but he believed the Pakistan Government policy was responsible for the developments that had taken place in Kabul. He said the Soviet troops could not be pushed out of Afghanistan through military means.

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Released opposition leader in outspoken attack on General Zia

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, April 24.—Mr. Asghar Khan, president of the Opposition party Tehrik-i-Istisqal, who was released last Friday from nearly six months' house arrest, said here today that he was defying a government ban on political activity to launch a struggle for restoration of civilian representative rights in Pakistan under the Constitution of 1973.

In a stinging attack on General Zia-ul-Haq, who has ruled the country since July 1977 after the overthrow of Mr. Bhutto's Government, the former head of the air force said he was firmly of the view that no military government could serve the interests of the people and the country. The military junta must relinquish power, he demanded, claiming that it brought nothing but disaster.

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measures taken by Pakistan. He claimed that the Islamic regime in Afghanistan was a phase one of Moscow's thrust to capture the oil-rich Gulf. The Soviet Union had a long-range object of world communism, he conceded, but said the other superpower was attempting to foil a capitalist system.

Mr. Asghar Khan criticized the United States Government for its attitude over developments in Afghanistan and said he seriously doubted Washington was concerned about Pakistan's security. According to him, Pakistan was expendable to America. He said the American aid offer of \$400m (about £142m) was "ridiculous".

Although he threatened to launch his political struggle against the military regime even singly if necessary, it is considered he would be permitted by the martial law regime to further the campaign.

He used the strongest language against the military Government, denouncing it for seizing power. It is, however, well known that shortly after the March 1977 general election, which he repudiated, he circulated a secret letter urging the Armed Forces to overthrow Mr. Bhutto and described him as an unlawful Prime Minister who came to power through rigged elections. Today he asked who had invited General Zia to take over.

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Five accused of Gandhi conspiracy granted bail

Delhi, April 24.—Ran Lalwani, who is accused of trying to assassinate Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, on April 14, was remanded in custody today for another four days. The order, made on a prosecution plea, was to help further police investigation.

Earlier the Indian Supreme Court released on bail the five others accused of being involved in the alleged attempt. The court issued its order, setting bail at about £280 each, on a special leave petition filed by the five co-accused, challenging an order of the Gujarat High Court which dismissed a bail application on April 19.

Among the co-accused are Mr. Pratap Ramchandani, the deputy mayor of the west coast city of Baroda, and Mr. Kishan Lalwani, the elder brother of Mr. Ran Lalwani, who is suffering from jaundice and other diseases, was admitted to hospital here soon after being brought from Baroda. A magistrate made a ban on the five co-accused from entering the city. The court also ordered that the five co-accused were not to attend court.

Several hundred people were arrested today for defying a ban on gatherings of more than five people in the troubled state of Assam. Officials said that most of those arrested were women.

Earlier security forces cordoned off the All India radio station in Gauhati as officials from Delhi took control of the news room. The Assamese-speaking staff were accused of broadcasting biased news and commentary in favour of the agitators calling for the deposition of the Prime Minister. The Assamese staff were accused of broadcasting biased news and commentary in favour of the agitators calling for the deposition of the Prime Minister.

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FOREIGN REPORT



The abdication and future queens with Prince Bernhard in Amsterdam last January.

Parliament to swear in Princess Beatrix as Queen of The Netherlands

Next Wednesday the usually rather sober and businesslike Dutch will be treated to an unusual amount of pomp and ceremony and reminded that they live in a monarchy. In the morning Queen Juliana will formally sign her Act of Abdication and in the afternoon the investiture of Queen Beatrix will take place during a special joint session of the first and second chambers of the States-General (Parliament).

There is no coronation, and constitutionally the most important moment will be when Queen Juliana signs her Act of Abdication; at that moment her eldest daughter Crown Princess Beatrix will automatically become the new queen.

At her investiture, Queen Beatrix will swear to uphold the constitution; but the most time-consuming part of the ceremony, the Oath of Investiture taken one by one by the members of the States-General, is not a constitutional requirement. In fact, a small number of republican-minded MPs will be taking the oath. They have refused to attend the investiture ceremony on principle.

The announcement by Queen Juliana on January 31 that she would be stepping down in favour of her daughter Beatrix provoked a storm of controversy about whether the monarchy should be abolished. On the whole,

however, the Dutch seem happy to leave things as they are.

The most interesting question that arose was whether the monarch has any real power. In the Netherlands the answer is: power, no; influence, yes.

Relations between the monarch and the Cabinet are defined in the constitution as follows: "The King can do no wrong; the ministers are responsible." This means that the monarch is excluded from power as the Cabinet is responsible for all the monarch's acts.

But the realm in which the monarch's influence is most important is in the political vacuum created between governments. The new Cabinet, once in place, assumes formal responsibility for the formation period; but that is after the fact.

In more than 30 years on the throne it is hardly surprising that Queen Juliana accumulated a wealth of experience, permitting her to deal with such delicate matters with great insight and competence for which she has justly been praised even by the communists. It seems likely that the future Queen Beatrix, faced with the same task, will have a year's time after the elections of May 1981, will be visiting her mother more than once to seek advice.

There are other areas in which the monarch has influence. Bills proposed by the Cabinet are usually sent by the monarch before they are sent to Parliament and ministers have been known to be sent back to do their homework by the Queen even before Parliament gets a chance to tell them to do so.

Despite the constitutional stipulation that "the ministers are responsible", Queen Juliana is known to have told ministers that because she has to sign Bills, before they become law she feels at least morally responsible for their contents. She once refused to sign the death sentence on a German war criminal preferring to step down rather than compromise her deeply held convictions against the death penalty. It was the minister responsible who in the end had to back down.

The Lockheed affair demonstrated that if the ministerial responsibility for the monarch is more or less clearly defined, it is more fluid for other members of the royal family.

In theory this responsibility applies to all the members of the royal family except Princess Irene and Princess Christina and their families because these two daughters of Queen Juliana did not seek parliamentary approval for their marriages and were automatically excluded with their children from the succession.

A constitutional amendment adopted in 1972 stipulates that the membership of the royal house for which there is to be ministerial responsibility (as opposed to the monarch's family as a whole) must be defined by law. The delicacy of the issue is illustrated by the fact that it has taken eight years for a Bill on the matter to be tabled in Parliament. This is perhaps because the Socialists, who led the previous government, want to limit membership of the royal house to six members: the reigning monarch, the monarch who has abdicated, the heir apparent, and their consorts.

Queen Juliana is known to be fiercely opposed to a limited membership of the royal house. In the Bill before Parliament, the present Government seems to have respected the Queen's wishes as it proposes membership of the royal house for the entire families of both the Crown Princess and Princess Margriet. But a majority of the Lower House has already expressed the view that ministerial responsibility must be reduced to a smaller number of royal persons. The new Queen's views on the subject are not known.

Robert Schuil

How Libya is governed

Four old soldiers in control

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has just celebrated the third anniversary of the most remarkable stage of its novel revolutionary process in which all conventional forms of authority were abandoned and "direct people's power" was declared.

In theory, at least, Colonel Gaddafi handed control of the country to a 1,000-strong General People's Congress. A government official told *The Times* proudly: "In our country today executive authority has been divided into the people where it doesn't exist. It is in the hands of everyone."

Well, not quite, perhaps. But certainly the lack of a conventional government structure has had various consequences. For one thing it has played havoc with normal diplomatic procedures. There being no head of state, there is no one to whom the diplomatic corps can be accredited. Colonel Gaddafi no longer receives new ambassadors routinely since he has no official position.

At the other end of the line, Libya is now represented in the West by "people's bureaux" (although not yet, curiously enough, in Communist block or non-aligned countries). What has not been resolved is the precise status of the "people's bureaux".

If the Libyans insist they are not embassies, are they covered by the Vienna convention which provides diplomatic immunity? Another consequence, of course, is that revolutionary mass meetings or demonstrations can be no official opposition.

The secretaries in the various fields of administration—housing, education, health, for example—can be subjected to criticism from members of the General People's Congress. By all accounts, budget allocations involve intense debate. And members of the congress demand to know why, if secretaries fail to provide promised public amenities, it is difficult to gauge the extent of serious opposition to the regime, but revolutionary rule has undoubtedly disenchanted many of the educated middle-class who have left the country rather than suffer the austerity of the regime.

The watchdogs of the revolution are the revolutionary committees, supposedly spontaneously created groups which, in the words of the official texts, can "incite the masses to exercise their authority, agitate the popular congresses, lead the popular committees and generally propagate the revolution."

Quite clearly such bodies are also used to convey the revolutionary gospel according to the moving spirit behind it and to keep revolutionary enthusiasm on the boil.

Huge crowds can be assembled for street demonstrations at the drop of a hat or at any rate a signal from above, and there is a frequent occurrence. In recent months both the United States and French embassies have been set ablaze by politically inspired mobs.

Normal business and social activity is repeatedly brought to a halt by revolutionary mass meetings or demonstrations. Colonel Gaddafi, a lean,

desert-handsome figure with the piercing eyes of a visionary and worn features that belie his 38 years, maintains a visible leadership presence and appears to be firmly in control of the regime.

At his side are four remaining members of the 12-strong Revolutionary Council drawn from the free officers movement which overthrew King Idris ten years ago: Abdul Salam Jallad who has no official title but is thought to retain overall responsibility for internal order; Mustafa Alkharbi, who is believed to control the intelligence network; Abu Bakr Younis, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and Alkharbi's aide, head of the people's militia.

The General People's Congress elects an executive committee—in effect a cabinet—with a general secretary, Jallad al-Talhi, who is in all intents and purposes the Prime Minister. But real power rests with the colonel and his three old military associates.

The most recent of their revolutionary innovations has been a move to close down the trading of the traditional Arab bazaar, the souk, and replace them with the authorities have established central trading agencies which buy in bulk abroad and sell through modern supermarkets. The importation of luxury goods has been reduced but prices are said to be half what they would be in the souk.

The change in trading system is a further indication—along with the diffusion of smart modern flats and housing

estates mingling with the run-down Italian architecture of the colonial period—that the regime is doing its best to spend the country's oil wealth on meeting the needs of ordinary Libyan people.

In spite of Colonel Gaddafi's tirades against the evils of Western imperialism, the regime continues to sell most of its oil to the West and to place development orders in the hands of Western capitalists as well as East European socialists.

Nearly half the million-strong work force is foreign, with sizable contingents from both West and East Europe, including 6,000 Britons. Libyans are restricted by the inhibitions of Islam and an excess of bureaucracy but there are few overt indications of authoritarian rule.

Nevertheless, the present anti-corruption campaign is undoubtedly creating considerable unease.

Libyan officials say it is directed against the post-revolutionary rich who have profited unduly from the country's development.

Some foreign observers believe it will be used also to root out incipient political opposition. The killing of two foreign-based Libyan dissidents, one in London two weeks ago, and another in Rome last week, certainly lends support to the view that, for one reason or another, the regime is demonstrating the extent of its authority.

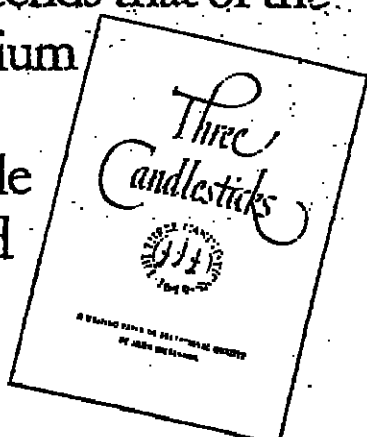
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BY JOHN DICKINSON.



Bartering on prices ruled out in EEC budget talks

There were prolonged exchanges between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, with Mr Callaghan intervening five times, over Mr Thatcher's attitude to the EEC. It was clear that Mr Callaghan could be no more on the budget issue at next week's EEC summit without prior agreement with Mr Thatcher. Mr Callaghan demanded assurances that farm price increases would

not be" furnished against the "use of the money to buy commodities in surplus would not be increased in price this year."

Mrs. Thatcher stated that the Government would not barter a settlement in one sphere against another, and that whether or not the Government was prepared to consider other issues, like agricultural prices, within the same time-scale. That reply brought an angry

Mr. Richard Bodey (Holland with Boston, C) began the exchanges by asking—The essence of any genuine community must be that those who are strong and well off help those who are weak and poor. Therefore at this time we should be net beneficiaries and not net contributors.

Mr. Bodey cannot reach any agreement there is no Euro-fanatic in this country who can hope to

persnade the British people that it is wrong to belong to such a community.

Mrs Thatcher—Partners are entitled to an equitable deal. We are not being asked to make a sacrifice at the moment. We are requiring back some of the net contribution we have made under the present arrangements but we must stick to our objective.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South East, Lab.)—We wish her success.

Mrs Thatcher—Partners are entitled to an equitable deal. We are not being treated equitably at the moment. We are regarding back some of the contributions we make. I do not underestimate the difficulty but we must stick to our objective.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of

The Opposition (Cardiff, South Wales) with the Government in recovering their large sum of money. In view of President Giscard's statement yesterday that this issue could not be settled in the absence of a statement of an increase farm prices, will she give an assurance that the Minister of Agriculture will not state that the price will not weaken and that Britain will concede no increase in the price of goods and commodities in surplus?

Mrs Thatcher:—When the statement by President Giscard was made, I was not in the Agriculture Ministers, Mr Peter Walker and I gave a robust response, as only he can, that the agriculture price agreement would be deemed to be as it always has been on merit.

I have made it abundantly clear that we are certainly prepared to consider any increase in farm prices to be settled within the same time scale, but each must nevertheless be considered on merit.

Mr Callaghan:—I take it, the Prime Minister is not suggesting

one. Are we intending to stand firm on our position that commodities will not be increased in price in an increase during the coming year?

Mrs Thatcher:—He is asking me to suggest he is suggesting he has achieved, (Labour protests) What I will not do is to barter prices in the agricultural council against the price of wheat. What he is saying is not that he could ask for more than that.

Mr Callaghan, again raising to Tony Crook, and the House as a whole, the question of directly owned companies that attempt to wriggle. She is wrong.

Mr Callaghan:—I am sure on surplus commodities they did not enjoy any price increases. Will she withdraw her remark on that?

Mrs Thatcher:—A freeze on surplus commodities was last year recommended by Mr Walker. In almost all the years of the Labour Government they negotiated increases in price. I am recommending the Commission

Minister wanted the House to understand that there is no question of us bargaining increases in the farm price settlement on commodities in surplus against the budget.

The country will be well aware that it was Mr Callaghan who left us with a net contribution to the EEC budget which . . . (Conservative cheers and loud Labour protests and interruptions.)

Mr Walker firm on surplus food prices

The Government will increase the export subsidy on agricultural products in surplus in the EEC was repeated during the meeting in Brussels. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, said that the Government would agree to a 10 per cent increase in the export subsidy on agricultural products in surplus in the EEC. Mr Walker (Worcester, C) said that the statement issued by EEC farm ministers concerning the common agricultural levels, though it recorded that a large majority of member states was in favour of a 10 per cent increase in the export subsidy, was not as proposed by the Commission.

There was virtually no discussion of the common agricultural policy in the English debate. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Peter Walker, said that the Government would agree to a 10 per cent increase in the export subsidy on agricultural products in surplus in the EEC. Mr Walker (Worcester, C) said that the statement issued by EEC farm ministers concerning the common agricultural levels, though it recorded that a large majority of member states was in favour of a 10 per cent increase in the export subsidy, was not as proposed by the Commission.

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[illegible]

Prime Minister will do the same? I must warn him we fear a sell-out at the end of the day.

This is not the best way to develop a sensible and rational agricultural policy. It is a policy which is subjected to trade-offs between Prime Ministers. I hope he will assure that he will not sacrifice the Prime Minister to trade off our common fisheries policy objective of a sustainable price freeze for surplus products.

Mr Walker—I admire the check of the Government to make sure the Government away more on prices for

erment tabled which does not include intervention and would be a sell-out to the sheep producers, the biggest sheep producers in Europe. This will be discussed at a working party meeting and a full Government council meeting. I hope then we can make progress.

Mr Walker—An Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Edinburgh, East Lab)—Is the Government going to make a price freeze on milk and sugar?

Mr Walker—That has always been the Government's policy. If the Opposition, we have stuck to it.

Two-day defence debate

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

- Monday and Tuesday:** Debate on defence White Paper.
- Wednesday:** Employment Bill, completion of remaining stages.
- Thursday:** Debate on reports of Public Accounts Committee.
- Friday:** Debate on London.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

- Monday and Tuesday:** Industry Bill, committee.
- Wednesday:** Debate on Post Office.
- Thursday:** Debates on reports of EEC committee on trade policy and energy.

clear guidance, give employers and unions. The Government would encourage management to reorganise on a voluntary basis, and the closed shop arrangements to which they were party were necessary.

The voluntary method together with the statutory back-up he had described would lead them progressively to a more realistic way towards the goal that Conservative MPs and he had in common.

The Bill introduced a range of provisions which would help management to reorganise on a voluntary basis.

What I do not want to do is put either this House in the position of passing legislation it cannot enforce or put the individual in the position of enforcing it. It is not going underground.

It is no part of this Government's policy to force anybody to do the whole time what it is to do. We do have to listen to industry, to talking about wealth creation and we need to carry industry with us.

The Bill protected the individual against the loss of his job and the amount of flexibility it needed.

The approach proposed from his book is that a lot of difference between closing shops and doing that for new closing shops and doing that for existing shops which have been closed down by the Government. The Government's proposals involving the closed shop echoed the provisions of the Bill. It was a general approach to deal with specific abuses and problems in industrial relations. The provisions of the Bill were aimed at individual workers who would also be acceptable to those who would be directly concerned with working conditions.

industry to exercise its judgment. It would not help industry to have such requirements imposed on it. I believe (he said) we are protecting the individual in this Bill.

The report stage of the Employment Bill was adjourned until Monday.

Wednesday's sitting ended at 2.10 am today.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Useful seats at low prices to students just before performance

OPERA AND BALLET

GARDEN 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. **THE ROYAL BALLET** 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. **THE ROYAL OPERA** 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

THEATRES

THE ROYAL OPERA 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. **THE ROYAL BALLET** 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

MIEKO FUJI

THE ROYAL OPERA 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. **THE ROYAL BALLET** 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

CONCERTS

THE ROYAL OPERA 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. **THE ROYAL BALLET** 8.30-10.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

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THE ARTS

A dour comedy of social anxieties

The Enemy Within
Thorndike, Leatherhead
Ned Chaillet

If I may skip the plot, the climax and details of characterization, moving on instead to the denouement, I might just be able to explain my understanding of Julian Mitchell's title. His dialogue becomes a bit too explicit to describe his story as an allegory, but it is much too muddled to make a point. He has tossed half the social anxieties of western society into the shape of an English family of the 19th century, added a bastard son from the working classes and staged a miniature campaign of class warfare in the luxurious library of a flat overlooking the Regent's Park.

After being disinherited from the family fortune, the bastard son forms an alliance with his beautiful, wealthy cousin, Nancy. He has convinced her that her more successful, her willful self-starvation, is a bodily symptom of her mind's rejection of her family's values. So pleased is she by his analysis that she enlists in the working-class guerrilla movement, causes a death in the family, is arrested and freed on bail and settles down to study revolution with her grandmother, a sprightly Communist who was a comrade of the poor Lora in Spain.

Unfortunately, it is not comic enough and some good actors have to pick their way carefully through the thorny significance of their lighter moments. The remaining members of Mark Cullingham's company, Eleanor Davis, John Woodnut, Margery Mason, Ruth Goring and George Pravda, survive with varying degrees of success but their presence as a whole is a hopeful sign. By choosing them, and a faulty, ambitious play, Mr Cullingham serves notice that the Thorndike Theatre is waking up after a contented suburban slumber.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1 4.30-7.00. **ACADEMY 2** 4.30-7.00. **ACADEMY 3** 4.30-7.00. **ACADEMY 4** 4.30-7.00. **ACADEMY 5** 4.30-7.00.

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Fame and fortune frittered away

1941 (A)
Leicester Sq Theatre

Knife in the Head (X)
Paris Pullman

Sweet William (AA)
Classic, Haymarket

Grey Gardens (A)
Minema

The Last Married
Couple in America (X)
Plaza

It might have been guessed

that the generation of young film directors who now dominate Hollywood, who founded their careers on their ability to turn a low-budget "B" film into a minor masterpiece, would go the way of their predecessors. The "new Hollywood" is taking on the symptoms of the old. As they all began their careers together, so they are reaching the same stage of development.

After Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Martin Scorsese's *New York, New York*, both lumbering epics which proved that neither director was quite in control, comes Steven Spielberg's 1941, which has the dubious credit of being, in stark dollar terms, the most expensive picture ever made. Staying true to the Hollywood tradition, the cost of 1941 is in inverse proportion to the film's worth.

It was, perhaps, a misguided idea from the start to make a large-scale comedy out of the panic which gripped America's West Coast in the week after Pearl Harbor, but laughter has been raised on less suitable subjects. Spielberg wanted to celebrate the genuine folly of the 1942 *Great Lakes* "Air Raid", in which tons of shells were released to shoot down an imaginary Japanese bomber squadron. The 1941 *Zoot-Suit Riots* between civilians and servicemen, by combining both events into one day of night in 1941.

Spielberg might have saved himself the prospect of disaster by taking his own advice. A year ago he boasted to an interviewer "Comedy is not my forte", and he was right. For all the film's conspicuous extravagance and elaborate slapstick, there are few laughs. I can remember no funny lines. The only substantial joke is Spielberg aping the chilling opening of his own *Jaws*. A naked girl swims in the moonlit sea as the cello saws their menacing. The thing is that comes from beneath as a submarine periscope hoists her into the air.

More comedy might have been exploited from the underlying theme of the film, the assault on Hollywood by an

alien force, and the subdued references to old films which Spielberg slips in. Monochrome propellers turn as if from *Casablanca*. A petrol station burns in its own self fuel from *The Birds*. A fairground roundabout spins out of control from *Strangers on a Train*. A cliff-top house is destroyed from *Zubiriki Point*.

The cast, too, revive the old Hollywood. The enemy submarine is captained by Toshio Mifune, the archetypal noble, warring Japanese. Their prisoner is Slim Pickens, who rode the young Germans as a result of the last war. As Hoffman gradually regains consciousness and starts to relearn the basic skills of walking and talking, he becomes aware that his hospital room is guarded and that he stands accused of terrorist crimes. As his memory has been lost, this accusation is like a living nightmare.

His sanity is not reassured by the behaviour of his wife and her new lover, who deceitfully use his plight to further their own support of terrorists, or the police, whose black leather clothing and vindictive behaviour make them appear more like gangsters than guardians of the law. Hoffman's sense of isolation and bewilderment is perfectly transmitted by the minimal face-twisting of Bruno Ganz.

Only two films by Reinhard

Mecca, where he was too late to visit the composer's grave and, once inside the cathedral, was not permitted to move near enough to the chancel to see as well as hear the Mass being sung. For his second symphony, subtitled *St Florian* and dedicated to Bruckner's memory, he decided to create a mass, only half-experienced, into its orchestral movements. The result was baptized last Wednesday.

The fragments of choral Mass are mostly heard at the start of a movement, and suggest the symphonic orchestral music to follow—but in the *Credo* the voices (including vocal soloists) are more closely involved, perhaps because the *Credo* is the

most personal statement of faith.

The choral Mass (what we hear of it) is not derived from Bruckner, nor in any of his styles, unless the pre-classical models which all students learn to ape. Schmitke is evidently remembering how a quite alien, formal sort of music set off in the appreciative non-Christian listener another train of musical thought, also personal.

It is eventful, in terms of vocal and orchestral colour, dramatic harmony and texture, rather old-fashioned perhaps for a composer aged 46 this year, though British listeners, at least, will appreciate the younger man's overt homage to our Benjamin Britten.

resistance fighters will count as much as men. "Intelligence work" is what lures her knowledge, and therefore power. Like a man in the flame, and aided by a series of accidents, she is drawn into the centre of the intelligence operation where she is discovered and her motives misunderstood. The play was apparently the result of lengthy researches into the life of women workers led at Bletchley, and it was fuelled by the conviction that social oppression has more to do with sex than with class.

As the punishment meted out this week to Miss Cynthia Payne amply demonstrates, patriarchal attitudes in Britain are still strong, but it is thanks to women like Cathy that they are not much stronger. *The Imitation Game* is indeed a feminist statement, and one of a welcome maturity. McEwan's heroines were not represented as expecting the moon and the stars and, apart from one piece of wonky characterization (the improbable transformation of the principal men in his life were depicted with understanding and sympathy, if also with sly humour. Trite feminist rhetoric about sex and power was here given substance in dialogue which at times possessed marvellous power and subtlety.

Richard Eyre rose magnificently to McEwan's challenge, echoing the hesitations, the brutal shifts, the light and shade of the script with direction of rare quality, using Morart's dark Fantasia in C minor to underscore the play's paradoxical, in that general reversal of nature, women may break their bonds and be free. If the Nazis invade, women

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As the punishment meted out this week to Miss Cynthia Payne amply demonstrates, patriarchal attitudes in Britain are still strong, but it is thanks to women like Cathy that they are not much stronger. *The Imitation Game* is indeed a feminist statement, and one of a welcome maturity. McEwan's heroines were not represented as expecting the moon and the stars and, apart from one piece of wonky characterization (the improbable transformation of the principal men in his life were depicted with understanding and sympathy, if also with sly humour. Trite feminist rhetoric about sex and power was here given substance in dialogue which at times possessed marvellous power and subtlety.

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John Belushi as "Wild Bill" Kelso in 1941

alien force, and the subdued references to old films which Spielberg slips in. Monochrome propellers turn as if from *Casablanca*. A petrol station burns in its own self fuel from *The Birds*. A fairground roundabout spins out of control from *Strangers on a Train*. A cliff-top house is destroyed from *Zubiriki Point*.

The cast, too, revive the old Hollywood. The enemy submarine is captained by Toshio Mifune, the archetypal noble, warring Japanese. Their prisoner is Slim Pickens, who rode the young Germans as a result of the last war. As Hoffman gradually regains consciousness and starts to relearn the basic skills of walking and talking, he becomes aware that his hospital room is guarded and that he stands accused of terrorist crimes. As his memory has been lost, this accusation is like a living nightmare.

His sanity is not reassured by the behaviour of his wife and her new lover, who deceitfully use his plight to further their own support of terrorists, or the police, whose black leather clothing and vindictive behaviour make them appear more like gangsters than guardians of the law. Hoffman's sense of isolation and bewilderment is perfectly transmitted by the minimal face-twisting of Bruno Ganz.

Only two films by Reinhard

Mecca, where he was too late to visit the composer's grave and, once inside the cathedral, was not permitted to move near enough to the chancel to see as well as hear the Mass being sung. For his second symphony, subtitled *St Florian* and dedicated to Bruckner's memory, he decided to create a mass, only half-experienced, into its orchestral movements. The result was baptized last Wednesday.

The fragments of choral Mass are mostly heard at the start of a movement, and suggest the symphonic orchestral music to follow—but in the *Credo* the voices (including vocal soloists) are more closely involved, perhaps because

Gower rewards the frozen faithful

Hockey
SINGAPORE: Tour match: Singapore 12, Pakistan 4.
Singapore 2, Pakistan 6.

Is the frozen faithful

DRAW: Halifax v. Castleford; Featherstone v. Hull; Leeds v. York; Bradford Northern v. Rotherham; Hull KR v. Wakefield Trinity; Hunslet v. Doncaster; Keighley v. Huddersfield; Dewsbury v. Bramley.

Gloucester find time for batting practice

R. A. B. Ezekowitz, i-b-w.
Wilkins
J. L. Rawlinson, i-b-w, b Wilk
-C. J. Ross, c Brassington.
Wilkins
J. O. D. Orders, b Partridge

Burrage says. "As I see
have got to make certain
county clubs that those scho

European finalists may have done their national team a big favour

Hutchins

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Alan Burridge's ability to use his forceful left-handed bat to drive him into the Durham side and he played for the

Both recently resumed competition after injury. They needed the work

as a tures of several facial bones and
can took had to have two operations. But
in 1961 it has not stopped him planning
m until for his new responsibilities.

erful guidance
a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 win over that
talented left-hander, John White

Britain leave it late

Britain scored three times in the final minute to beat Finland 94-88 in the basketball international at Torquay last night.

Birmingham will have Todd for last game

**Nicklaus brother
go through**

0. 2. 8. Cueva (Spain); 6. J. Fernandez (Spain); all same time. OVERALL: Vicenza (Italy); 9 hr 32 min 30 sec (Spain); all same time. Overall: 2. S. Kelly, 9:32:32. 3. J. Borrell (Relgium), 9:32:37. 4. J. P. NZI, 9:32:38; 5. P. Iorre, 9:32:47; A. P. Vilardebo (Spain), 9:33:32. —Agencies.

Young bowlers rewarded

Burrage says. "As I see it, we have got to make certain in county clubs that those school

The same applies to Dav
aged 32, who advances
wings to the centre of
only, these days, as a
player. His former partn

Mr. Alan Burridge's ability as a forceful left-handed batsman was shown when he was called into the Durham side to replace the injured Ian Botham and he played for the first time in the County Championship match against Lancashire at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday.

that Lewis won 1-6, 7-6, 7-6, after having saved two match points when serving at 2-5 down in the third set. He had also come close to defeat in the second set,

as a tures of several facial bones and
can took had to have two operations. But
in 1961 it has not stopped him planning
m until for his new responsibilities.

—has been reported to the referee for misconduct. We must assume from this that there are many unduly long-suffering umpires who value their status in the chair.

Britain leave it late

Britain scored three times in the final minute to beat Finland 94-88 in the basketball international at Torquay last night.

The match did not warm until the third game and the unless the Nicholls made a rash of it (they can be erratic).

0. 2. 8. Cueva (Spain); 6. J. Fernandez (Spain); all same time. OVERALL: Vicenza (Italy); 9 hr 32 min 30 sec (Spain); all same time. Overall: 2. S. Kelly, 9:32:32. 3. J. Borrell (Relgium), 9:32:37. 4. J. P. NZI, 9:32:38; 5. P. Iorre, 9:32:47; A. P. Vilardebo (Spain), 9:33:32. —Agencies.

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Why each country should pay some of the real cost of its surplus farm products

One sure way of putting a stop to the EEC 'follies'

The problems of Europe will not be solved in one crisis meeting dealing with Britain's contribution in isolation. The manner in which we seek to resolve the problems of Britain's contribution and return from the Community must make a positive statement to the other fundamental issues that need to be tackled if Europe is to achieve a new purpose.

The Community has already begun to benefit from the partitioning created by an elected parliament. It will further benefit as Greece, Spain and Portugal become members. It has, however, now fundamentally to review the workings of Community policy where these have given rise to economic imbalance between member states in providing policies that advantage the poorest members most of all while at the same time reducing the evil of unemployment which is growing throughout the Community.

This is the real challenge that faces the Community. Only by solving the problems of the 1980s as the original Community of the 1960s will it create a feeling of belonging and purpose among the ordinary people of the 12 nations that it will bind together.

When we look at Europe we must remember that the Community is established for political purposes and policies must be progressively devised which will meet them as well as more short-term economic issues. Although Britain is talked of with much sorrow in the rest of the Community, some of us will recall that had Britain not stood firm for Europe in the face of French disarray in the 1950s, and by the Treaty of Brussels committed itself to stationing troops in Germany, the very basis for creating the Community could never have existed.

Those commitments by Britain have cost us money across the exchanges which this year will total something like £800m. No other country other than the United States spends money so freely across the exchanges for the mutual defence of its allies.

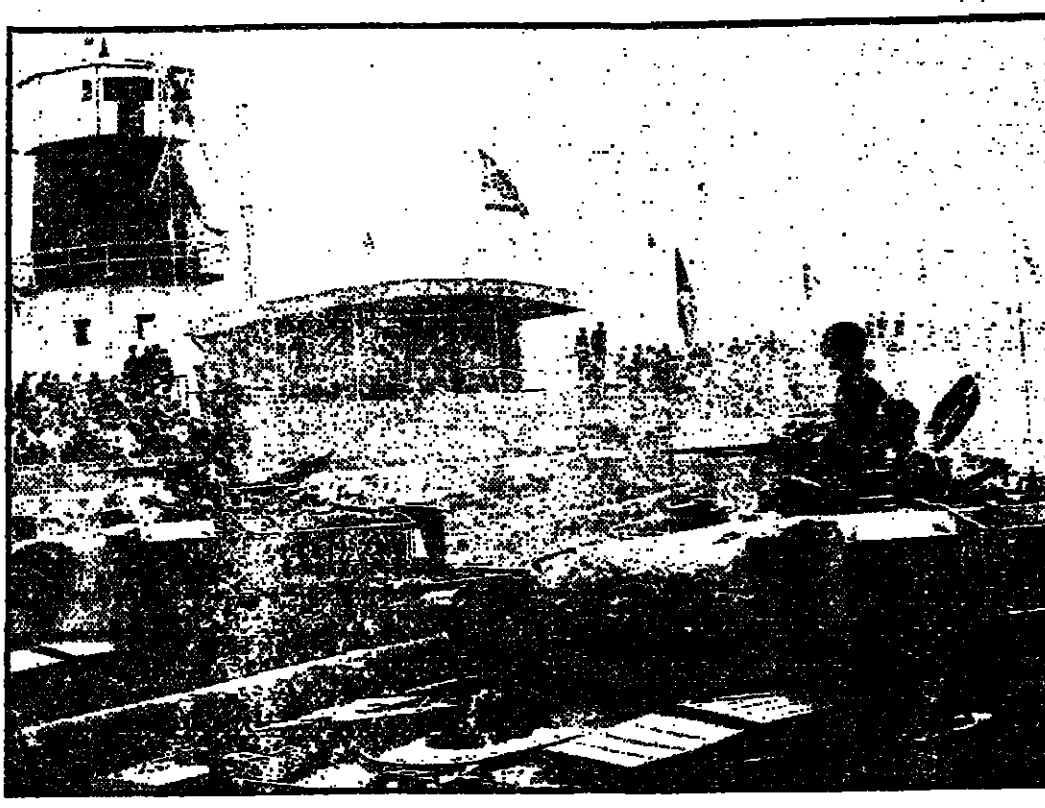
The amount we spend in Germany each year to the benefit of their economy is almost as much as the total of our deficit with the Community as a whole and represents the loss of tens of thousands of jobs in the United Kingdom and a comparable gain to Germany.

It should not be forgotten that when the French withdrew from the joint military command of Nato they breached the spirit of the Treaty of Brussels and since that time our commitment has in truth been a voluntary one from one of the poorest of the countries of western Europe.

We cannot for long have a Community that over-subsidizes agriculture, does little for the unemployed and treats defence as if it does not exist.

Britain and West Germany should each meet a quarter of the Deutsche mark costs of the British Army of the Rhine, but the other half should be met from Community funds. Britain should be required to use half these refunds to improve its naval and air force equipment and to use the balance to reduce its budget nearer to that of its European neighbours.

As Greece, Portugal and Spain become members, the Community should without replacing any Nato functions accept the historical responsibility that Britain once had as the paymaster of Europe. All three countries suffer from unemployment. All should make a contribution to western European defence and the Community



ity should equip and finance additional forces provided by them for deployment on the boundaries of the Community.

If these steps were taken and Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark made a more reasonable defence contribution proportionate to their wealth, this would release some of the British and American manpower stationed in Europe and enable them to make a more positive contribution in the fields of naval and aviation defence of Europe as a whole.

The provision of the funds for this should be then a separate budget levied on member countries in proportion to their national income. Its existence would not only provide a new bond within the Community but would ensure that the general budget was looked at more critically.

The maximum cost involved would be less than one-fifth of 1 per cent of gross national product and there should be a ceiling fixed in such terms beyond which expenditure could not increase.

Because Britain has an economy radically different from the rest of the Community, there can be no resolution of the issue of equitable contribution to and receipts from the Community on a temporary basis. Any scheme has to envisage that as long as the United Kingdom has a gross national product below that of the Community on average, she should enjoy a mechanism that gives her a return on her contributions, and a return of her own receipts from Community expenditure, provided half of such returns are spent in a way that will be of direct benefit to the Community members as a whole.

When the European monetary system was proposed two years ago Britain was concerned that joining it would result in the possibility of overvaluing sterling to our economic detriment. Since that time with sterling developing as a petrodollar the arguments are all

The British Army of the Rhine: half the cost of keeping the force could be met from Community funds

in the reverse direction.

Joining the EMS would certainly tend to hold down the value of sterling in present circumstances. Moreover, experience to date has already shown that membership of the EMS does not prevent countries from revaluing or devaluing their currency as the need arises. Britain should agree to join the EMS on the basis of devaluing sterling by about 5 per cent from its current level and should start following fiscal policies at home that positively reduce inflation while progressively bringing sterling down to a more realistic level.

No satisfactory relationship can exist between Britain and the rest of the Community while the CAP exists in its present form. The recent example of Britain demanding monetary compensation as a subsidy for its overvalued currency shows that any government will demand extra resources from the Community whenever it can, as long as someone else is going to foot the bill.

The CAP has all the disadvantages of a monopoly system financed by someone else's purse. It will never be controlled as long as it is financed in its present form. Farmers in countries that revalue their currencies get the benefit of a lower inflation rate and lower costs, plus full monetary compensation for the change in the external value of the currency. Monetary Compensation Amounts (MCAs) should be progressively abolished. As a first step no compensation should be paid for the first 3 per cent. Thereafter only one-third of any currency change by countries who revalue, and two-thirds by countries who devalue, their currencies should be paid.

MCAs are, however, only the icing on top of the fruit cake. The policy of stimulating agricultural production, piling up surpluses, and demanding progressively higher prices in relation to world prices will go on as long as the cost is met by the Community as a whole and the national budget has no share to bear.

The CAP is the only Community policy in which contributions from the Community do not have to be matched by commensurate contributions from the national exchequer.

It is the only product in which outside countries are unable to compete because there is no fixed external tariff on food but a variable tariff that increases every time Community prices are put up.

The only way to reform the CAP is to insist that each country contributes towards the "follies" it is creating. The Community has no right to demand that each country surplus farm produce which cannot be sold. The Community then has to pay the cost of the storage of such products and sustain the loss on the disposal of such surplus products.

The Community should therefore charge to each country 25 per cent of the money it pays to its farmers for buying their surplus products. It should charge the country concerned one-half of the cost of storage and half the cost of disposing of surplus products bought in that country. Thus in first time, the economic terms would have a view of agricultural policies for by that country and b Community as a whole.

Each budget would be of the cost of its own production. The government would have an interest in restraining such expenditure by means of production or price reduction to its own consumers by the subsidising of other means. The equitable sharing of between nations states confederal parliament is mental to any confederalism. We have not got a system in Europe and CA show that at this stage federalism giving Community policy to the Community without any cost-burden by member country countries.

Such a reformed CAP would in countries seeking and farmers in more ways. It would keep prices to the benefit of all farmers. It would reduce subsidies by the Community and allow more resources made available for other uses of training, research, extension, and low-cost loans to stimulate production of high-quality products.

These are the kind of changes the Community needs to make in the interests of its members including Britain. It is to tackle the problems of the 1980s.

Roy Grant
The author is General Secretary of the Association of Professional Estate Agents, Clerical Computer Staff.

Getting the right Tory balance

The largest Conservative backbench revolt so far this Parliament took place on Tuesday when 45 MPs voted to insert a clause on secret ballots into the Employment Bill. This was a rebellion by right-wingers against a left-wing member of the Cabinet. Previously there have been revolts by left-wing backbenchers against right-wing Ministers. It all intensifies the impression of a party that is divided on both the front and the back benches.

How deep is the split? There are, first of all, differences over the practical effects of specific policies. Would it be possible to enforce a requirement for secret ballots? If so, would that reduce the number of strikes? That kind of disagreement will always occur under any administration, and is a healthy sign in any party that its members are thinking for themselves. But the effect of these differences is compounded among Conservatives at the moment by personality conflicts.

There remain considerable misgivings about Mrs Thatcher personally, and about her style of government, both within the Cabinet and among Conservative MPs. Equally, the epithet of "wets" which she has bestowed upon some of her colleagues in Government and Parliament betokens a lack of respect for those with whom she disagrees. There is on both sides a lack of confidence not just in the judgment but also in the spirit in which the other approaches the challenge of government today.

This raises the third, and in some respects the most interesting point: the ideological divide. Mrs Thatcher and her closest associates see themselves as conducting a quiet revolution. They wish to establish a system in which government plays a less active part in our lives in general and the economy in particular, takes a smaller proportion of the national income for public expenditure and would leave more money in the pockets of

Geoffrey Smith

Perhaps the most that Mrs Thatcher can realistically expect to achieve is to perform the historic Tory function of balancing

politicians at their own value, to assume that they can achieve what they proclaim. Whatever may be said by Mrs Thatcher, her colleagues, advisers or intellectual mentors, there is no possibility of returning to even a modified version of a nineteenth century free market economy. The political pressures and institutional forces are too great.

The Government have made compromises already and will have to make more in the future—which is not to suggest that there is a U-turn around the corner. It is just that it will not be possible to be quite as rigorous and radical in constructing a new system as some would like. What Mrs Thatcher is doing, and can be expected to do still more in the future, is to correct the trend towards collectivism that has been the feature of government in Britain throughout the post-war years.

That may seem a modest task. But it is in fact immensely difficult to change even to a limited extent the assumptions and expectations according to which government has been conducted and a nation's life has been based for more than a quarter of a century. Special qualities are required. One of the criticisms of Mrs Thatcher that is heard from friend as well as foe is that she has a narrow range of sympathy. But it may be that only the singleness of purpose that comes from a narrow vision, the determination that is given to those who are spared from seeing too many sides to any question, can possibly turn this particular tide.

If this is so, it means that the most that Mrs Thatcher can realistically expect to achieve is to perform the historic Tory function of balancing—and also that she, or someone like her, is more likely to fulfil this role than the balancers themselves. So, even if reasonably successful, the ultimate fruits of Thatcherism should be more in accordance with the historic purpose of the Gilmourites than the Thatcherites.

An Indian view of the followers of Rajneesh Ashram

Causing a scandal in Poona



Ecstasy: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and two of his followers

monk who has performed his own funeral rites and now wanders homeless, dead to the world, seeking only enlightenment, and leading a life of the utmost personal discipline. There are still many men in India and they are deeply venerated.

The trouble is, Rajneesh seems to come alive to the world as soon as they get to Poona. They are seen dining in all the most expensive restaurants, eating beef and drinking beer, and worst of all they are usually in couples, hugging in public, kissing, holding hands. This might sound tame stuff to a westerner but I can assure Mr. Levin that only in one small area of the old city of Poona will he find Indian ladies behaving like that in public.

It is not that the residents of Poona need to speculate on what goes on in the Ashram (though of course they do); they are scandalized and offended by the "eccentric" behaviour of Rajneesh's own and about in town.

It is not possible to give an analogy that would convey the full power of the thing but imagine a group of very rich Arab businessmen staying in a church in London where they all dressed in Anglican ministers' robes, with collars, went around arm in arm with their girlfriends and had services with pot and steak pie for wine and bread. Wouldn't there be an outcry? I think that in the circumstances the people of

"Widely acclaimed," he conceded, "but scarcely well known"

He formed the words reluctantly, as though afraid "La Grande Complication" might lose some of its aura through the mere suggestion of being famous.

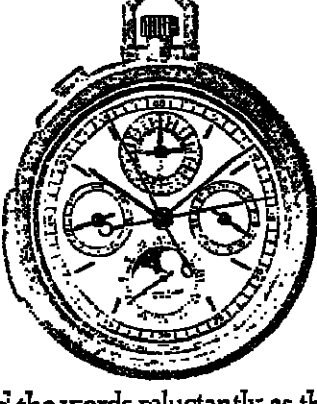
Whilst, as I pointed out, awareness of this extraordinary masterpiece of the watchmaker's art cannot dull its brilliance, its price of £40,000 means that few people will ever know the pleasure of owning one.

Everyone else, I reflected, must be content in the knowledge that such craftsmanship still exists today.

As if reassured, he handed the slender chronograph back to me, his fingers lingering for a moment on the finely edged gold case.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 73 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.



MOSCOW DIARY

Pravda can probably boast that it is the most quoted newspaper in the world. It certainly has the biggest circulation, with some 10,700,000 copies printed each day and an estimated readership of 50m and the world knows that when Pravda speaks, the voice of the Kremlin is talking.

These official pronouncements, often signed with pseudonyms and laying out Soviet policy, conjure up pages of burgled speeches, columns of statistics, weighty articles denouncing the latest policies of Washington, Peking or some other offending country.

All this is true, and there are days when Pravda does seem stupendously dull. But it is not the whole picture. Stories of embezzlement, fraud, muggings and hold-ups, investigations into ministerial cover-ups and attempts to falsify the figures, challenges to ministers to tell consumers the truth—all this is the stuff of Fleet Street journalism. It is also the daily fare of Pravda, Izvestia and Literaturnaya Gazeta.

Contrary to common perceptions in the West, the Soviet press is one of the most campaigning, hard-hitting and effective in the world. The headlines may be smaller, the layout more staid and the picture less revealing of human flesh, but the Soviet papers are just as committed to getting their message across, getting the world to rights and giving the readers a good laugh now and then.

Of course the difference is that the message is not just the editor's musings, but the party line expressed by the Soviet editors could adopt the same motto as their western counterparts: "We name the guilty men!" There is nothing a Soviet journalist likes better than unearthing a racket or exposing some shenanigans in this or that factory or ministry.

Of course he has to get clearance first. The story, and especially the recent rash of crime stories, is printed not so much to shock or entertain but to warn. But once the party has decided that a sector of the economy is not pulling its weight, or public concern should be aroused over drunkenness, hooliganism or corruption, we betide the offending factory when the Pravda journalist starts snooping around.

Soviet papers never criticize the system itself, unless the party has already considered making changes.

But once the leadership has picked a target, the papers weigh in. Soviet railways are a good example. Mr Brezhnev has several times complained they do their job poorly. To judge from articles over the past two years, they are in utter chaos.

I have occasionally reported articles about stations piled high with uncollected goods, regional networks stealing each other's trains to fulfil their own plan, trucks trundling all over the country while irate factories



was to lock them up properly, so it set up a unit to design a burglar-proof lock.

This unit, a Soviet institution, acquired a life and momentum of its own. It gathered together some engineers, invented a long-winded title, found premises, set up a research programme and had all the usual trade union, party and recreation committees.

After a day or two, white-coated designers settled down to ponder over the problem. This went on for about two years until the boss one day hit upon the perfect design in his own home. With a cry of Eureka he got his colleagues to make a prototype and took it back to the ministry. They had forgotten all about the unit, and were outraged to be presented with a prototype for several hundred thousand roubles—the entire expense for this happy little "scientific research organization" for two years. Grudgingly the ministry paid up and a series of prototypes was made for testing.

When the big day for the test came all the designers descended on a station where they chose a train at random and fitted 20 of the locks with the new burglar-proof locks. Then, in a farewell ceremony, they made a few speeches, waved goodbye, congratulated each other and went home.

Unfortunately no one thought of the next stage. The train chugged off till it came to the junction where the goods were to be unloaded for transship-

ENERGY IN BRITAIN

The Government must ensure that Britain has enough energy to meet the needs of the economy from the year 2000. In the introductory article to this report, Nicholas Hirst, Energy Correspondent, advocates ordering more supplies than might prove to be necessary, while Pearce Wright, Science Editor, suggests that this approach deflects attention from the proper development of alternatives

Aim must be caution

It could go back 10 or 15 years with the knowledge that the oil crisis would be changed. It is regretted that Britain has not been able to do this. The general strategy adopted by the Government is clear enough. It believes that the days of cheap energy are over, that supplies will become internationally more difficult and more expensive to obtain, and that there is every possibility that by the year 2000 Britain will once again need to be a net importer of either coal or oil or both.

Translating that general strategy into specific policies is far from simple. Hardly a single source of new energy can be brought on stream in less than five years and many take nearer 10. If research and development into new technologies is taken into account, the lead times are longer still. Yet decisions to invest in new resources taken too early can, in the case of the nationalised industries, result in an inflated public sector borrowing requirement and lead to problems in the private sector when ordering programmes have to be cut back in future years.

The Government has made a virtue of using market forces to run the economy, but applying this technique to the energy supply industry can be difficult. Short-term price movements may be at variance with the longer term, switching between energy sources is often

continued on next page

The photographs in this report were taken by Simon Heaven at the National Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Wales. The centre's approach to the problem of depleting energy supplies is to emphasize conservation and renewable energy sources, with fossil fuels used as a back-up while these are developed. The picture above shows a low energy consumption house with all-round insulation, quadruple glazing, controlled ventilation, and a heat reclaim system using a heat pump driven by batteries which are charged by the windmill. The windmill also supplies power for lighting.



Opponents want fair hearing

Although nuclear power has been in commercial use for generating electricity for more than 20 years, the first extensive examination of the controversial aspects of this source of energy did not take place until the Windscale inquiry two years ago. The transcript of the 100 days of that hearing contains more than 2,500,000 words in its 8,000 pages.

By any criterion, the evidence included matter of fundamental importance to the nuclear debate and to the understanding of the political process of planning large technical ventures in the United Kingdom. Yet the final report from Mr Justice Parker and his assessors is a masterpiece of brevity.

Any lawyer, politician, scientist, engineer, planning specialist or environmentalist seeking to study the case has to turn elsewhere for a documentation of the issues and argument. Perhaps the most rigorous of such volumes is *The Nuclear Controversy*, published by the Town and Country Planning Association in association with the Political Ecology Research Group. Since both groups were partial observers and participants throughout the Windscale inquiry, the obvious care taken to present the issues in a neutral way is commendable.

The shape of the nuclear controversy changed last year with the accident to the Three Mile Island plant at Harrisburg, which gave the anti-nuclear movement a far more populist voice in Britain. Hitherto, the actions of various campaign groups had lacked the direct political thrust of their counterparts in the United States and elsewhere in Europe.

Evidence of the new urgency and popular sentiment on the matter came with the Harrisburg Day rally in London on March 29 this year, which was organized by the Friends of the Earth and supporters from politics, science, industry and unions. It was the start of a wider campaign against the Government's plan to expand the nuclear programme, and to adopt the American type of pressurized water reactor that dominates the atomic power station market in all other countries.

One of the charges of the anti-nuclear campaign is that of inequality. In recognizing the reality of a situation in which the might of the Atomic Energy Authority, electricity generating boards and private industry are combined in spending something approaching £2m a year on propaganda, the opponents are not arguing the case for that to stop but rather that they are entitled to a fair hearing for their submissions.

Since their object is to retain the quality of life for all, their desire to have an equal opportunity for putting their solutions seems not unreasonable. They maintain that there are options available to the energy business, but their submissions tend to be overwhelmed by the barrage of the defence put up in favour of nuclear power.

That is understandable since the attack on the development of atomic energy comes from so many quarters. This is because of the qualitative difference in risk between nuclear energy and any other source of power or industrial hazard.

One of the fiercest arguments turns on the economics of nuclear power. It is certainly a massive consumer of capital with new power stations needing some £1,500m each. Apparently the capital costs have risen

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ENERGY BLUEPRINT NO. 7

PLANNED EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY

School's heat pumps teach vital energy lessons

Back to school could well be the best message for anyone currently involved in designing buildings. More precisely, back to Roach Vale Primary School, Colchester, recipient recently of a RIBA commendation for good design. The scheme itself, a three-story five heat pumps, may be tiny small in scale, but it is an excellent model for learning about the advantages of an overall approach to environmental design in all types of buildings.

Central to the school's controlled environment are the five heat pumps which provide year-round heating, ventilating and cooling. In winter, the heat pumps use the outside air as the heat source, even when temperatures are quite low. Their output is implemented by using heat from the warm exhaust air of the building, which is passed over the outside coil of one of the heat pumps. In summer, the occupants are kept comfortable by ventilating the building with, in very hot conditions, the heat pumps are used to provide additional cooling.

Modular Design

But the equipment is only half the story as important was the careful consideration given to design of the structure in which it operates. A modular method of building (MCB) is used, purpose-designed by Essex County Council in conjunction with consulting engineers Chamberlain and Armiters. This emphasises the importance of heavy insulation for roof and walls, doors and draught lobbies, and sealed windows.

For it is only in a structure itself designed for energy efficiency that an efficient, economic and controllable environment can be created.

But Roach Vale is only a stage in the process of learning from succeeding stages of design development. And now that reduction of energy consumption is a real concern, the implications of that

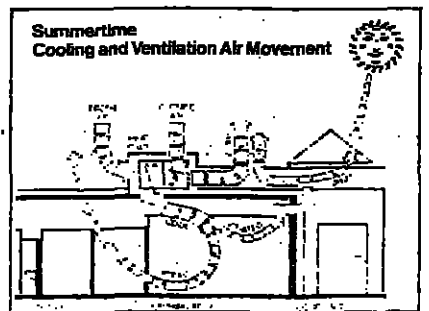
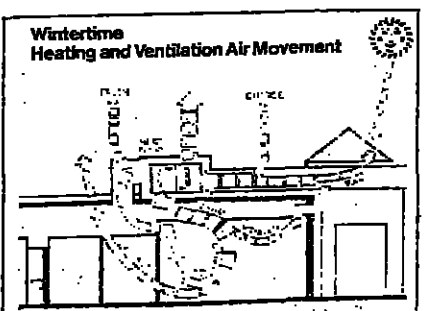
process extend far beyond schools into buildings of all types and sizes.

In energy matters, industry and commerce can no longer afford to spend indiscriminately - and re-education often starts with small pioneering projects like Roach Vale.

For more information tick box No. 1.



Roach Vale Primary School: efficient controllable environment.



Heat pumps—the energy savers

Heat pumps. What are they? What do they do? The title page of a new booklet from the Electricity Council gives the short and simple answer: *the energy savers*.

Saving energy is what the heat pump is all about. In installations throughout the country - offices, shops, banks, schools, social clubs, restaurants - big economies are being made.

Of course, the needs of such a variety of premises are bound to be varied. But heat pumps are readily available in sizes suitable for most situations where a controlled environment is required all year round. For a copy of the heat pump booklet tick box No. 1.

Annual energy savings of well over 50 per cent and a greatly improved working environment—these are the results of comprehensive improvements to an 1860m² office area at the International Harvester Corporation in Doncaster. Modernisation in four areas—lighting, heating, cooling and insulation—has brought the office right up to date.

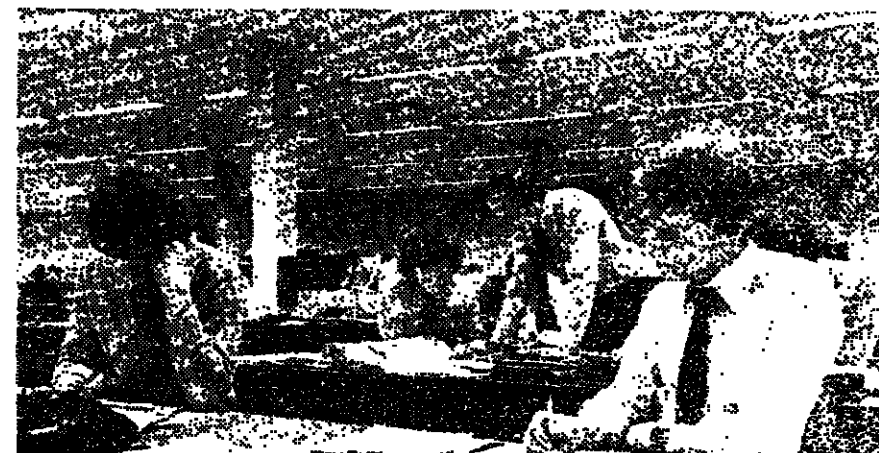
It is true to say that before the changes the single-storey office was virtually a relic of the steam age - its principal heat source was an antiquated underfloor steam system. In winter this struggled unsuccessfully to combat cold down-draughts from the abundance of roof lights. In summer the same glazing caused significant overheating, which could only be remedied by the simple but haphazard expedient of opening doors and windows. So everyone suffered - the office staff physically, and the company financially, with the regular arrival of large fuel bills.

Action

In its modernisation suggestions the Yorkshire Electricity Board looked at all areas affecting energy expenditure together and identified four main areas for action:

1. A new false ceiling was necessary over the whole office, to be used as a return airplenum with air handling light fittings.
2. Efficient roof insulation needed to cut seasonal heat loss or gain.
3. Lighting levels were to be upgraded in line with the IES Code standards.
4. Air conditioning—essential for summer comfort and proper air distribution.

Office face-lift brings 50 per cent savings



Better working conditions at International Harvester's Doncaster Office.

The addition of two heat pumps for even greater heating economy means that in practice the YEB recommendations have brought the total annual reduction in energy consumption to over 50 per cent.

The original refurbishment has been so successful that International Harvester are now adopting the same principles in modernising other offices on the same site. In the latest case they are obtaining even

For more information tick box No. 2.

Electric boost for hotel trade

Winter holidays, once seen as a continental luxury, are now an area of considerable growth potential in the British hotel trade. And at the Madeira Hotel, Falmouth, this potential is now being realised with the help of a recent electric modernisation programme. For under £5,000, the new electric system is being used to supplement an existing oil-fired boiler, to provide a warm and welcome addition for management and winter visitors alike. It makes use of electricity for both heating and hot water needs, while keeping installation and operating costs to a minimum.

The seafaring hotel, originally five turn-of-the-century houses, is open all the year round and accommodates over 90 guests. Its owners at first considered installing a larger oil-fired boiler, but capital costs and the expensive replumbing necessary weighed against it. The basic existing oil-fired system supplied heating to the ground floor and hot water to a few of the bedrooms.

Electric equipment could have been used in a variety of ways to supplement this. In the end electric panel heaters with integral thermostatic control were chosen for heating 42 of the 49 bedrooms. These cut waste because they are used primarily when the rooms are occupied, leaving

guests free on arrival to choose the room temperature that suits them best. Heating on the landings also has thermostatic output control; in this case using storage fan heaters.

Flexible

The same flexible approach has been applied to meeting the hot water requirements for new shower installations. For the second floor bedrooms 13 electric instantaneous units ensure that energy use is cut right down to the time it takes to have a shower. For the more continuously used first floor bedrooms, water for showers and baths not supplied by the existing system is

provided by off-peak electric heaters in well-insulated storage cylinders. The hotel owners were particularly satisfied by the reduced amount of pipework needed, and the low operating costs achieved.

Manager Mr Turner was pleased with the way the heating coped even on the coldest days - no boost at all had been needed. When unoccupied the rooms had been kept aired with the heaters on a lower setting, thus providing the guests with a warm welcome through the whole winter. Annual operating costs for 1978/79 including the cost of lighting, TV, etc, came to just under £4,100.

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ENERGY IN BRITAIN

Management of resources

Making the most of it

The Government is looking for energy savings of 20 per cent by the year 2000, as a contribution to narrowing the energy gap likely to develop as oil runs out in the 1990s. Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary, said recently that conservation must be "tapped", as if it were a new resource. In many ways it must be regarded as such.

At the start of the 1970s energy was cheap and plentiful: oil was \$1.35 a barrel and petrol about 34p a gallon. The Department of Energy had not been invented.

As Britain enters the 1980s there is no doubt that attitudes have changed. The lessons of the 1970s, when prices suddenly began to leap ahead, are being learnt, and some improvements in energy use achieved.

Throughout business, a paid army of 5,000 energy managers is tackling an annual bill of about £8,000m. In every kitchen and car, the "Home Guard" is doing its bit. Of course, there are good soldiers and bad—but where stands the Government?

Having laid down the battle plan and distributed a few weapons—in the form of cash incentives—it now seems content to lead from behind, providing back-up services and side-line exhortations. Unlike its predecessor, the Conservative administration wants to ensure that price is the spur to energy conservation progress.

Inevitably, this has prompted criticism that the Government is merely rationing by price—and not efficiently. The way in which different forms of energy compete and are sold to domestic and industrial consumers is bound to cause anomalies.

Public corporations which profit by selling energy are required to persuade consumers to use less. Industrialists who would reduce their use of fuels by, say,

switching to gas are told that it is not available. Instead, it must be made available to less efficient, domestic users.

Nevertheless, the present Government, by emphasizing the role of price, has moved away from the more simplistic appeal of the original Save It campaign. Critics might argue that this has not been replaced by the "You can't afford it" campaign. The Government would probably prefer to describe its present policy as "Make the most of it".

This change in emphasis is reflected in the recent statements by Sir Hermann Bondi, who took over in February as chairman of the Government's advisory council on energy conservation. He said: "Energy is not something to be saved at all costs. We cannot allow our energy needs to dominate our lives and restrict our freedom of choice. Energy conservation should make our lives more, not less, comfortable." (Sir Hermann described himself as an "anti-burial shirt man".)

Sir Hermann believes much can be achieved by the application of more brainpower—the imaginative application of electronics, for example—rather than by the introduction of more hardware. Correspondingly, some forms of government assistance are to be scaled down.

The Department of Industry will not renew its energy incentive conservation scheme, whereby money was advanced to cover the replacement of inefficient heating systems, when it expires in June. More recently, the Government announced, to a chorus of opposition, that it is to cut cash aid for loft insulation in houses.

Various services remain. They include industrial energy audits, technology support schemes, conservation advisory services, and other information aids. These are supported by a general energy education campaign directed at industry, commerce, and the home-owning and car-driving public.

The most impressive—perhaps because they are the most easily quantifiable—savings have been achieved in industry, commerce and the public sector, which together account for about

50 per cent of national energy consumption.

ICI has averaged a 41 per cent decline in energy use per unit of output since 1971. It is now chasing a target saving of 5 per cent.

Rank Xerox expects annual savings of £67,000 a year to come from the installation of automatic, computerized control of heating, lighting and ventilation at Mitcheldean. Among the methods used to identify possible areas of conservation was infra-red thermography. A thermograph taken from an aeroplane at night showed losses from two buildings which should not have been heated at that particular time, and from an inefficiently lagged steam pipe buried a metre underground.

A Government-backed energy conservation demonstration at the Rockware Group's Bagley works showed that an 85 per cent reduction in energy use could be achieved by changing from electricity heating in a container glass forehearth.

A new heating system in a tunnel kiln at the Yorkshire Brick Company's Barnsley plant has cut energy requirements by 15 per cent. Recovered kiln heat is used to help dry clay used in brick-making.

West Midlands County Council is saving an estimated £600,000 a year as a result of replacing tungsten lighting with sodium units. The investment of £1,500,000 will be repaid within three years.

Improvements to W. H. Smith's heating plant at Strand House, the company's London headquarters, has reduced fuel requirements by 71 per cent. The company is seeking annual savings of £2m in the fuel requirements of its 200 shops and 60 wholesale houses.

Car designers are racing to improve petrol consumption. (Transport accounts for about a quarter of energy consumption.) Mr Gordon Bashford, the chief engineer of B.L. Technology, said that Volkswagen was hoping to have a 70-miles-per-gallon model available by 1988. "B.L. just hopes to beat them to it," he said.

John Huxley

Since the Conservatives came to power there has been an increase in exploration in the North Sea, and interest in developing new fields is as high as ever.

Conoco has announced plans for the Hutton field which has been on the point of being developed for six years using a novel platform fixed to the sea bed by vertical tensioned cables. Marathon has received permission for its £700m development of part of the complicated Brae field. British Petroleum should float out its semi-submersible production platform, the Drilmaster, for the Buchan field. In June, Activity seems to be booming.

But complaints within the industry over delays in decision making within the Department of Energy have grown louder and louder as the months have passed, culminating last month in an official statement by the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association.

The industry's chief moan is that at a time when the oil price has risen once more to record levels in real terms and looks increasingly unlikely to repeat the falls made in the five years after the 1973-74 energy crisis, when values were eroded, it is not being given enough acreage into which to sink its drills.

The Government is faced with making a difficult decision which could influence the pattern of development of the North Sea for the next 20 years. That decision is whether the rate of depletion of Britain's oil reserves should be constrained to extend their life or whether production should be allowed to build up to a maximum in the mid-1980s, after which it would go into a natural long-term decline.

The Department of Energy has wanted to get its views on depletion policy clear before concluding a new seventh round of licensing. Many in the industry do not see why it should. Within industry

many experts believe that deep, more hostile waters. New production techniques are being advanced for the more difficult conditions which are expected and the rise in the price of oil has probably brought the minimum level of field that can be developed down from a range of reserves of 250 million to 350 million barrels to the 50 million to 150 million range.

The industry would like special fiscal arrangements for marginal fields but, as yet, there is no evidence that any field would have been developed if the tax and royalty system had been softer than has not been developed under the present rules.

But the amount of acreage available for exploration has fallen sharply. According to UKOIA eight years ago about a third of the British continental shelf was available for exploration drilling. A combination of mandatory relinquishments and smaller licensing rounds had reduced this

area so that now there was only about 10 per cent of the total acreage under licence. The Department of Energy has promised to license about 70 blocks in the seventh round, including areas north of the 62nd Parallel, which have not been on offer before. The industry would like far more so that its exploration effort might stand some chance of keeping Britain self-sufficient in oil at the year 2000.

Ministers have been concerned not to produce the rush on equipment and manpower which helped to escalate costs after the large licensing rounds in the first half of the 1970s. Depletion control could be used to push the date of self-sufficiency further into the future. Exploration activity, the argument goes, would not then need to be quite so frenzied. But is control worth it?

As a result of guidelines laid down by Mr Eric Varley (when he was Secretary of State for Energy) in 1982, production can only be reduced under exceptional circumstances. The Department of Energy's reduction of production levels on the Shell-Eso Brae field was not a depletion measure as such, but a control aimed at eliminating gas wastage by flaring. Nevertheless, the action taken showed willingness to hurt company profits in what the Government saw as the national interest.

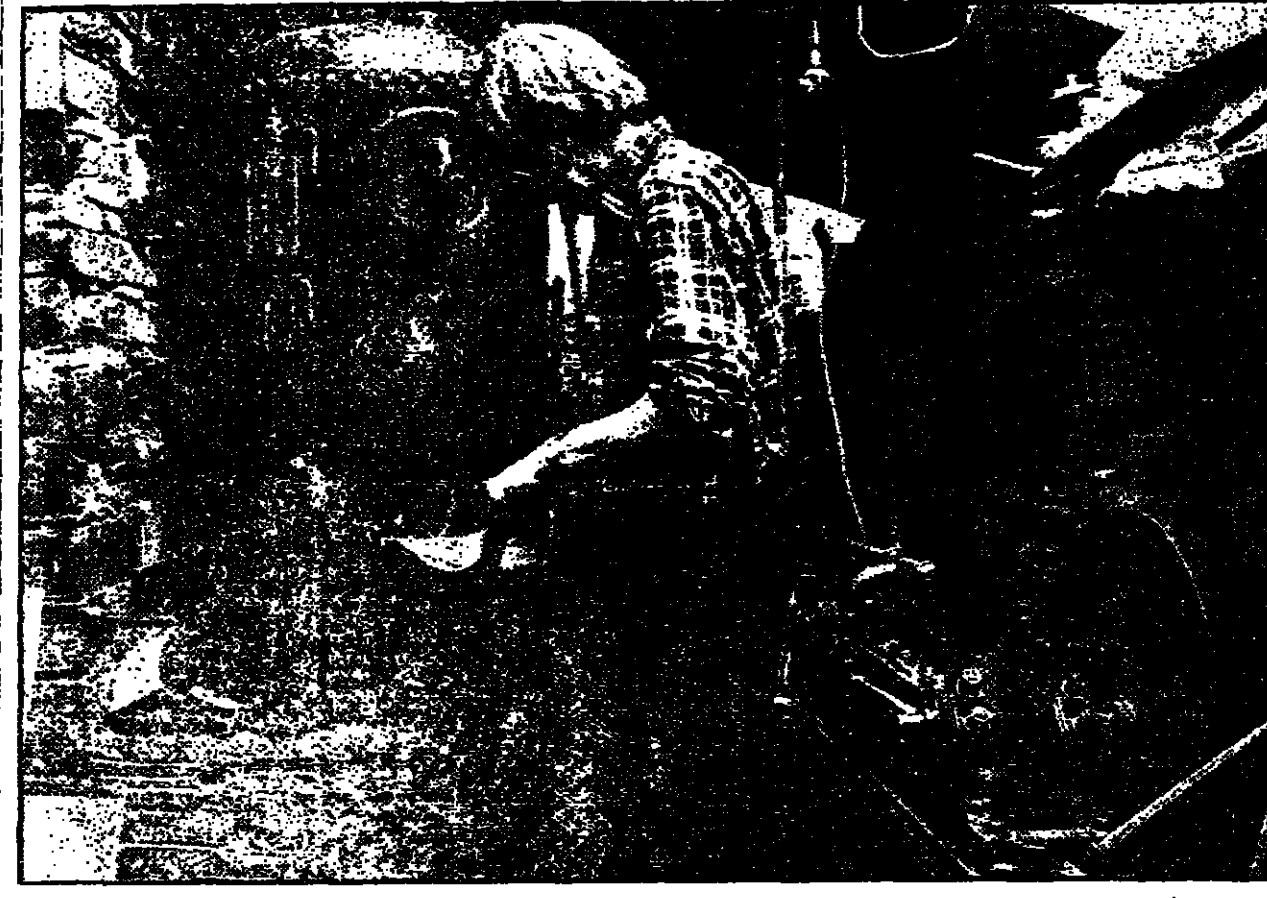
From 1982 the guidelines further restrict government's ability to control production, but sufficient flexibility remains to allow the Government to bring output to be brought to a level which would be consistent with the long-term goal of self-sufficiency. In the BEC's mind, required in any case, to two or three years, connected. I meet the commitment of a Department of Energy a net oil export of five million tonnes in 1985 given so long to come to decision on its decision can be

Delays in production starts have continuously

Nicholas H

North Sea oil

How fast should we deplete our reserves?



Combustible waste that cannot be recycled is used to fire an old steam engine which in turn drives a stand-by generator producing about three horsepower.

Aim must be caution

continued from previous page

produced Treasury growth estimates over the next few years have been slashed, while the level of interest in the North Sea, as a result of record real prices for oil, has been revitalized.

The Government proposes to meet energy demand in 2000 by a three-pronged attack of promoting conservation, developing coal and nuclear power.

But all three can be influenced by government policy outside energy. The plan for the nuclear component was to have a steady ordering programme which would allow nuclear stations to replace old coal stations as they neared the end of their lives and would supply new capacity for demand growth. The impossibility of turning ordering to precise demand was recognized and a rational decision taken to order regularly in an attempt to build up the nuclear industry to a level where it could, if necessary, meet a much higher ordering programme in the future, when fossil fuels became increasingly scarce.

This policy has jumped its first hurdle, but only just. A rise in the cost of the two British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors, coupled with a fall in expected demand growth forecast by the Central Electricity Generating Board, and as a result of mild winter, £300m of over-spendings by the electricity authorities, led the Prime Minister to call in the Central Policy Review Staff to examine the effects of cancelling both.

They won a reprieve, but the policy of relying on steady ordering has taken a knock. Considerations on other matters than energy are always threatening the energy policy. If electricity demand does fail to grow sufficiently to justify the size of programme the Government has ordered, it can be reduced slowly. Cancellation now would have severely damaged the industry; reduction in the future would not be nearly so drastic.

But over what sort of period should the Department of Energy allow demand forecasts to be reduced before it cuts back a programme? It is not an easy question to answer. Having too much capacity is almost as embarrassing as having too little, but not quite.

The department has to plan for all its policies to come together so that, if possible, the need to import gas is delayed for as long as possible. Gas conservation is being encouraged by the rises in price planned for the next few years. The increased revenues flowing into the Gas Corporation will also ensure that it can pay a sufficiently attractive price for the oil companies to renew the exploration effort in the North Sea. However, the price rises are higher than the Gas Corporation itself would have liked.

Again other considerations than energy policy influenced the level that was set. The market place is being used to reduce demand, but not to cost the supplies. But perhaps the biggest question that the Government has to face, having taken the decision gradually to increase the amount of nuclear generated electricity is what it should do with the North Sea. Should it move to control production so that it never rises much above net self-sufficiency, or should it allow the oil companies to be the best judge of the most profitable time to exploit the reserves and allow net exports to build up in the

middle of the decade?

If production is controlled should the number of licences to be offered for new exploration be controlled also? Should the companies be allowed to explore, but not to develop their finds?

The department has not been quick to make up its mind about what it should do. The temptation to leave the oil in the ground is strong, but the extension it gives to supplies is small.

If world growth is much lower than has been forecast, then oil in 2000 may be freely available and it might have been a better economic bet to produce the North Sea oil faster.

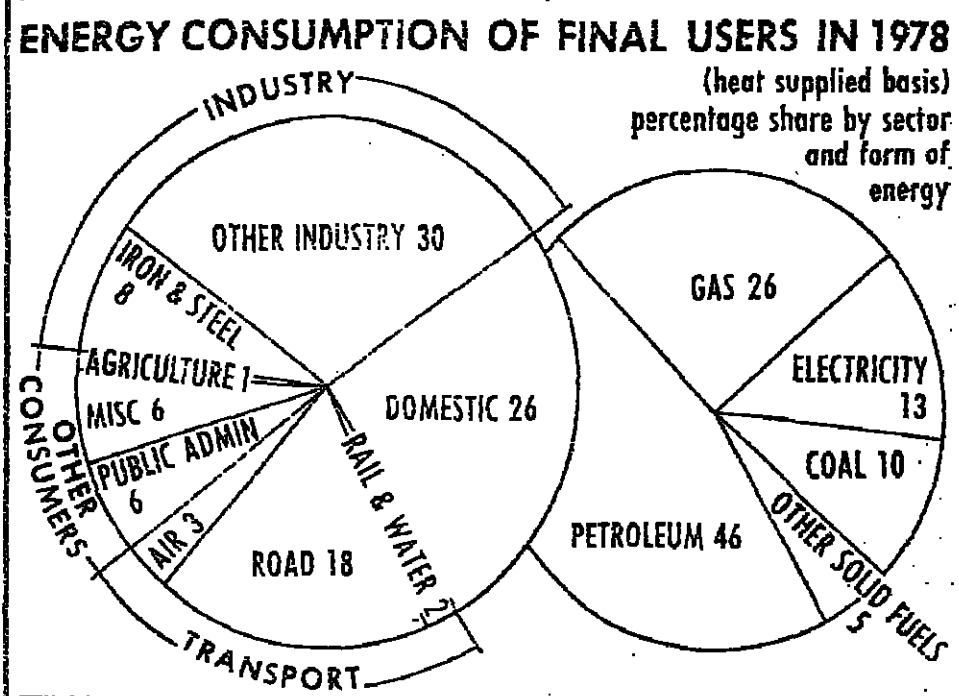
If the British coal industry fails to meet its investment target, if less gas is found than expected, if the nuclear programme falls behind, the United Kingdom could find itself buying expensive energy from abroad with the ever present threat of a cut in supplies.

The Government's aim must be to err on the cautious side, and that means investing in new energy resources so that there is no chance of being without, even if in the short term some of those investments might appear unnecessary.

TOTAL INLAND CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY FUELS IN 1978

339.8 million tonnes coal equivalent

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NATURAL GAS 19.7%
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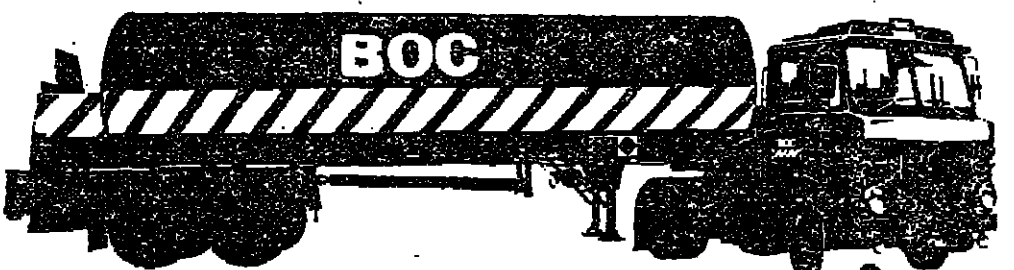
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By Our Ed Correspondent

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By Jacob

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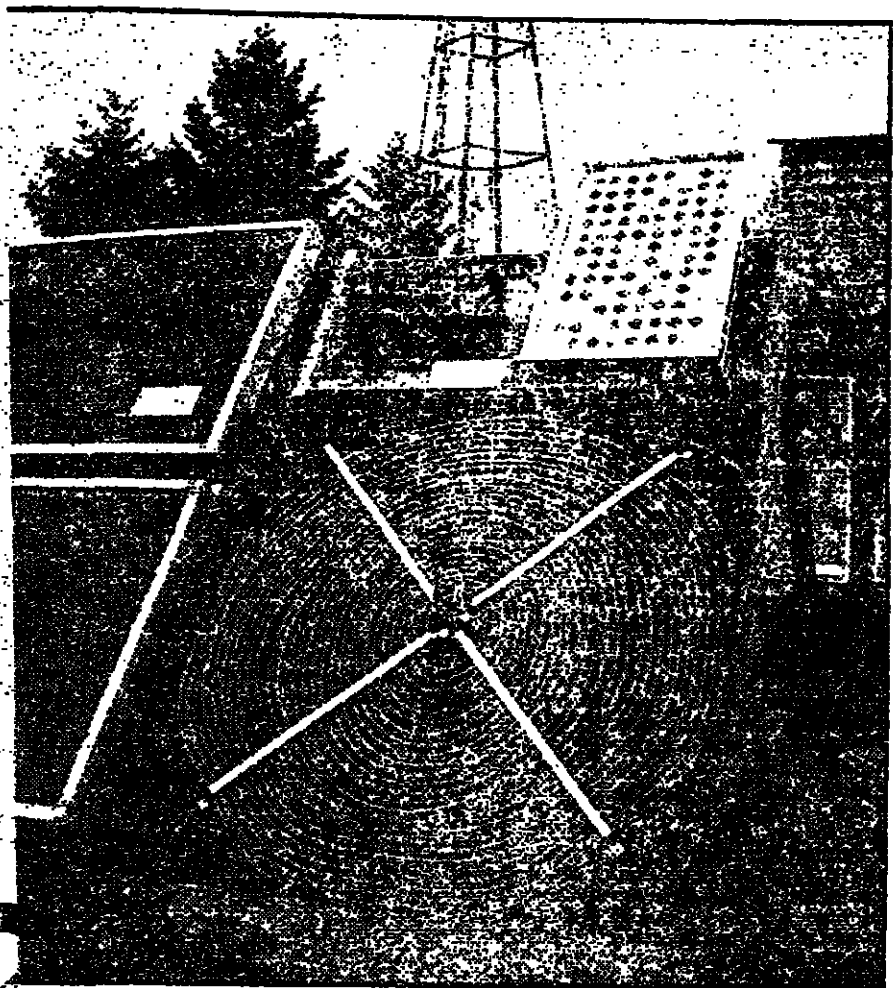
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Coal

Potential market of 200 million tons a year by turn of century

A big increase in oil prices in 1973 not only curbed the consumption of oil in many countries but also stimulated their economies. The oil price increase has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it has led to a massive increase in the use of coal in power stations and in the chemical and steel industries. On the other hand, it has led to a massive increase in the use of gas in domestic heating and in the chemical and steel industries. The National Coal Board, on the completion of its study into the coal industry, has published a report which states that the coal industry is in a state of decline. The report states that the coal industry is in a state of decline because of the massive increase in the use of oil and gas. The report also states that the coal industry is in a state of decline because of the massive increase in the use of oil and gas. The report also states that the coal industry is in a state of decline because of the massive increase in the use of oil and gas.



A variety of solar water-heating panels can be seen at the Alternative Energy Centre. The sun's radiation passes through glass and is absorbed by the black pipes. Circulating water then conducts the heat to a well-insulated tank. The basic principle applies to the curved length of hose.

Gas

Pipeline from North Sea planned

Eighteen months ago a report sponsored by the Department of Energy concluded that a pipeline system to bring gas from the North Sea to the south of England would be uneconomical. At the time, the cost of gas was £1.00 per therm, and the cost of a pipeline was estimated at £1.00 per therm. The report concluded that a pipeline system would be uneconomical because the cost of gas was too high. However, the cost of gas has since fallen to £0.50 per therm, and the cost of a pipeline has since fallen to £0.50 per therm. The report now concludes that a pipeline system would be economical because the cost of gas is now low enough to make a pipeline system viable. The report also states that a pipeline system would be beneficial because it would allow gas to be transported from the North Sea to the south of England, where it is needed for domestic heating and industrial use. The report also states that a pipeline system would be beneficial because it would allow gas to be transported from the North Sea to the south of England, where it is needed for domestic heating and industrial use. The report also states that a pipeline system would be beneficial because it would allow gas to be transported from the North Sea to the south of England, where it is needed for domestic heating and industrial use.

improvement schemes to make old mines more productive while investing substantial money in the search for new mines. The oil price increases of the mid-1970s accelerated the search for these new mines, particularly in countries where the reserves were substantial—the United States, Russia, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. In Plan for Coal the NCB had outlined the decline which had taken place as a result of decades of cheap oil. The volume of deep-mined coal produced had fallen during the 1960s and expenditure on major projects by 1972 had been reduced to a tenth of the previous decade. The report had added: "All this is reflected in the reduction of output from 184 million tons in 1960 to its present level of 120 million. These trends must not continue." That philosophy was confirmed by a tripartite group of Government, unions and NCB which studied Plan for Coal. Further studies by the NCB and the Department of Energy concluded that the potential market for coal by the year 2000 could be as high as 200 million tons a year. The 1974 survey had drawn attention to the promising coalfields which could provide that extra fuel, among them Selby in Yorkshire, the extensions of the rich East Midlands coalfield at the Vale of Belvoir and the area between Newark and Lincoln. The plan's exploration and improvement schemes would provide in all an additional 42 million tons a year at an estimated cost of £3,000m. At present nearly two thirds, 80 million tons, of British coal is consumed in power stations. In addition significant quantities are consumed in industry and in the home. As pressure on oil supplies mounts, oil will be progressively displaced from power stations and general industrial use. Oil production is likely to reach a peak in the late 1980s and Britain could well become a net energy importer again in the 1990s. There is a need for more coal to enable the oil and the gas reserves to be used more sensibly in the 1980s and to provide long-term security when the oil and the gas supplies diminish. Although technology to mine and use coal efficiently has advanced, the environmentally conscious are frequently opposed to the creation of new mines. Of those outlined in the 1974 paper, development at Selby is under way but the inquiry into the Vale of Belvoir is more than two months old. The inquiry has raised a number of emotional issues. Giving evidence, Mr Raymond Razzell, general policy engineer for the Central Electricity Generating Board, said that if Belvoir coalfield was not developed and it became necessary to transport coal from outside the area the additional costs would exceed 58m a year. The project at Belvoir would cost £760m and is expected to provide 2,200,000 tons a year between 1990 and 2060. But if coal is to replace oil or gas it must be able to

Cheap energy is a thing of the past. So here's some advice for the future.

For several years now domestic gas consumers have enjoyed something of a bargain. In a decade of soaring inflation, the price of gas in real terms has fallen by about a third. The promise of North Sea gas has been and will continue to be fulfilled.

But, as announced in January, our customers are going to have to pay more for their gas in future. The price will go up by an average of 17 per cent from April 1 and further increases will follow this year and in the next two years.

Gas will remain a good buy compared with other forms of energy for the foreseeable future, even though the age of cheap fuel and power has gone for ever.

Fortunately, however, most people can do quite a lot to protect the family budget against the effects of these inevitable price increases.

Here are some simple ideas which will help you save gas—and save money into the bargain; and some ways to spread the cost of your gas more evenly over the year.

MONEY SAVING TIPS...

...AND HOW WE CAN HELP

Stop Obvious Heat Losses and Wastage

- * Keep doors and windows shut.
- * Keep curtains drawn where possible.
- * Turn heating off in rooms not in use.
- * Use weatherstripping to stop draughts round doors and windows.
- * Don't waste hot water.
- * Dress sensibly—don't sit in your shirtsleeves with the heating on full blast when a sweater would keep you just as warm.
- * Make sure your hot water cylinder's properly lagged with a thick, snug-fitting jacket.

Use Your Central Heating Controls Sensibly

- * Turn your thermostat down a degree or two. The chances are you'll hardly notice the difference—but you'll be saving money. (Where there are elderly people or young babies, special care should be taken in making temperature reductions.)
- * Use your time clock properly—there's no sense in heating the house when there's no one home.

Insulate Your Loft

- * If your loft isn't insulated, you could be losing up to a quarter of your heat straight through the roof.
- * Insulation doesn't cost the earth—and you may even qualify for a local authority grant.

Have All Your Gas Appliances Serviced Regularly

- * Keeping your gas appliances in top working order can help them to work more efficiently.

Energy Conservation Advice and Materials

- * Gas showrooms have free leaflets giving more detailed advice on how you can avoid wasting gas in your home. We also have Energy Advice Centres, where you can obtain information and buy insulation materials and up-to-date energy saving controls for your central heating.

We Can Help To Spread The Cost

- * Ask at your gas showroom for details of our Easy Payments schemes, which include special Gas Savings Stamps and Budget Billing methods which allow you to pay a regular amount each month.

In Cases of Real Hardship

- * If you face genuine hardship over the payment of your gas bills, you should get a copy of the Code of Practice on the payment of bills—it's available at your gas showroom. It tells you what to do and how you may be able to obtain help if you are in genuine need of assistance.

BRITISH
GAS

Don't waste your energy

An answer to
Japanese
transport trouble
page 19

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

End of the
Doxford
success story
page 18

Stock markets
FT Ind 434.8, down 0.8
FT Gilt 66.48, down 0.32

Sterling
\$2.2638, down 7 pts
Index 73.5, unchanged

Dollar
Index 87.4, down 0.3

Gold
\$522.50, up 0.15

Money
3 mth sterling 171-174
3 mth Euro \$ 151-16
6 mth Euro \$ 154-154

IN BRIEF

P puts up price of oil

North Sea oil has raised the price of oil by 50 cents a barrel to \$25.50, effective April 1, says the state-owned Norwegian Petroleum Administration. The price increase is the first since the oil market was opened to competition in 1973. The price of oil is now the highest in the world, and is expected to rise further as the price of oil continues to rise.

Financial news
The FT 100 index closed at 434.8, down 0.8 points from 435.6. The FT 100 index is down 0.8 points from 435.6. The FT 100 index is down 0.8 points from 435.6.

ess bid decision
The bid for the Furness Withy shipyard has been rejected by the Furness Withy group. The bid was for the shipyard to be sold to the Furness Withy group.

pensions stake
The National Coal Board has agreed to contribute £15m to a pension fund for the coal industry. The fund is to be used to pay pensions to coal miners.

100 incomes
The Inland Revenue has announced that the average income of 100 people in 1977-78 was £2,000. This is a decrease from the average income of £2,100 in 1976-77.

's £13m contract
The Davy Corporation has won a £13m contract to build a new shipyard in the north of Ireland. The shipyard is to be used to build ships for the Royal Navy.

nd seeks \$1,000m
The National Coal Board has agreed to contribute £15m to a pension fund for the coal industry. The fund is to be used to pay pensions to coal miners.

's £9,500m taxes
The Inland Revenue has announced that the average income of 100 people in 1977-78 was £2,000. This is a decrease from the average income of £2,100 in 1976-77.

Street up
The New York Stock Exchange closed at 127.14, up 0.14 points from 127.00. The New York Stock Exchange is up 0.14 points from 127.00.

Top Carter aide admits the American economy has entered a recession

From Frank Vogt in Washington and Caroline Atkinson in Hamburg

Top Administration officials are no longer hiding the fact that the United States is in a recession, with the latest news from the car and housing industries providing sharp support for this view.

Dr Charles Schultze, Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, stated in Washington that the economy is "without qualification" in a recession. Administration officials point in particular to low demand for cars and housing to prove this point.

This comes against a background of the IMF forecasts for the world economy showing a sharp slowing down in growth in the industrialized countries this year.

The IMF is predicting a rise in output in 1980 of only 1.4 per cent compared to growth of 3.4 per cent last year. In 1981, the fund predicts an average growth rate in the industrialized world of only 1.2 per cent.

The IMF expects inflation in the industrialized countries to average 9.6 per cent this year and 8.5 per cent next. The industrialized world is expected to have a deficit of \$47,500m (£21,017m) this year, while the forecast surplus for

the main Opec countries totals \$115,000m.

It is rather surprisingly, forecasts a \$3,000m British balance of payments surplus this year, based upon fourth quarter, fourth quarter data, will be about 12 per cent or less, despite an 18 per cent rate in the first quarter of 1980.

But the IMF expects a wide variation in growth rates in 1980 from a drop in British output of 2.2 per cent to growth of 4 per cent in Japan. The British economy is expected by the IMF to come slowly out of recession in 1981, with a growth of 0.4 per cent.

However, the big question mark over world prospects is the size of the threatened American recession. The IMF forecasts United States growth of 0.2 per cent this year, followed by a sharp drop in output of 1.2 per cent in 1981.

Germany is forecast to grow by 2.1 per cent this year, accelerating to 3 per cent next. The Carter Administration insists, however, that the recession will be mild. Mr William Miller, the Treasury Secretary, said in a magazine interview that "several factors will cushion the downturn."

"One is that we do not have high levels of inventory at the manufacturing and retail levels. Businesses have been very cautious with their inventories. This means they won't cut production sharply."

The Administration believes the recession will dampen inflationary pressures and that the annual rate of consumer price index growth this year, based upon fourth quarter, fourth quarter data, will be about 12 per cent or less, despite an 18 per cent rate in the first quarter of 1980.

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Mr Denis Rooney to take over at National Nuclear Corporation

By Bill Johnstone

Mr Denis Rooney, an executive vice-chairman of BICC, succeeds Lord Aldington as Chairman of the National Nuclear Corporation.

The appointment, forecast in *The Times* on March 16, was announced in Parliament yesterday by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, and brings to an end the uncertainty in the industry caused by the vacancy.

Before the appointment takes effect on July 1 the chairman designate will join the NNC board as a director and familiarise himself with the running of the corporation.

He will need to balance the diverse interests and opinions of those involved in an industry which still provokes much controversy among the public. His primary qualifications are his administrative talents and his impartiality on a nuclear question.

One question raised by the new appointment is what plans exist for the rationalization of the corporation. The NNC operates on a two-tier management system which Mr Howell is keen to combine into one unit.

Many questions have remained unanswered in the nuclear industry since the mid-seventies as the debates over safety and types of reactors were conducted at every level of the industry.

The Vinter Committee was set up under a senior member of the Department of Industry in 1970 to study the British



Mr Denis Rooney: facing decisions on British reactors.

designed advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR). In 1972 the committee reported and recommended that no further AGRs should be built until one had operated successfully for at least two years.

By 1974 the Central Electricity Generating Board had recommended the American pressurized water reactor (PWR) for part of its system, but the plan was rejected by the Government.

The oil crises of the last decade have created greater pressure for an energy policy that would minimize dependence on oil. But by the end of 1979 only nine power stations

operated by the CEBG were nuclear.

The Government is now committed to expanding the industry with permission being given to the CEBG and the South of Scotland Electricity Board to build an advanced gas-cooled reactor each. The two AGRs, to be sited at Heysham in Lancashire and Torness in Lothian, Scotland, will cost at least £1,200m each to construct.

Future debates within the NNC, to be chaired by Mr Rooney, will undoubtedly be on whether expansion based on British designed nuclear reactors should continue.

The present programme of 15,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity for 10 years after 1982 is modest compared to those of France, Germany and Japan.

Mr Howell said: "None the less we are investing £5,500m per year in energy production, stressing the importance of the economic use of fuel and conservation, and are alert for the commercial development of non-exhaustible sources of energy."

"We all recognize the wider importance of reducing dependence on imported oil. We in the United Kingdom are playing our part to the full."

The corporation, set up in 1973, is owned by GEC, 30 per cent; United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority on behalf of the Government, 35 per cent; British Nuclear Associates (BNA), a group of private industrial shareholders, 35 per cent.

Fed chief 'helped in \$800m loan for Hunts'

Washington, April 24.—The House Banking Committee is to investigate press reports that Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, helped to arrange bank loans worth \$800m for the Hunts brothers to help them pay their silver speculating debts.

According to a report in today's *Los Angeles Times* Mr Volcker supervised the extension of a credit line to Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and his brother, Mr W. Herbert Hunt, to avoid economic panic after a margin call was made on the Hunts' vast silver holdings.

A group of the largest banks in the United States agreed to the loan after details were worked out by Mr Volcker and other top government officials with the heads of the banks, unidentified sources told the newspaper.

The Federal Reserve Board refused yesterday to "confirm or deny" Mr Volcker's role. Mr Nelson Hunt and Mr Herbert Hunt had so far borrowed \$800m to pay off maturing debts on silver, the newspaper said. In future months, as more of the Hunts' past contract promises to buy silver come due, the brothers were expected to use much of the rest of the credit line.

The credit line was not made directly to the Hunts but to the Hunt family's wholly-owned Placid Oil Company, the newspaper said.—Reuter and AP.

Howe plea against deflation

From Caroline Atkinson in Hamburg, April 24

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is making a strong appeal to other industrialized countries not to defend their economies in an attempt to get rid of their oil induced payments deficits.

The Chancellor intends to make a forceful speech tomorrow to the world's finance ministers and central bankers assembled in Hamburg for a meeting of the IMF's interim committee.

Although present British policies are highly deflationary—the Government is predicting a 2½ per cent drop in output this year—the Chancellor will stress that this is for domestic reasons and if possible, should not be copied by other countries. Britain has to fight inflation and it is for this reason that the Government is adhering to a tight policy.

The world can cope with the problems posed by the huge oil surplus, according to Sir Geoffrey, especially if industrialized countries accept their counterpart deficits. He believes that the commercial banking system can carry out much of the necessary recycling from surplus to deficit countries.

In calling on developed countries to learn to live with payments deficits, Sir Geoffrey is clearly addressing himself primarily to Germany and Japan, both of whom expect to

be deeply in debt. This year because of recent huge oil price rises.

There have been growing fears in Britain that a very severe worldwide recession this year and next would make the outlook for British industry and employment even bleaker. The Treasury is therefore anxious to encourage other countries, such as these two, to increase spending, even if this means that they run large payments deficits.

The Chancellor will probably recommend tomorrow that countries with surplus reserves of foreign currency—such as Germany and Japan—should use these if necessary to finance their balance of payments.

Sir Geoffrey will also stress that the world should avoid slipping into protectionism. In his view this is not the right way out of the problems caused by the oil surpluses and corresponding deficits.

It is thought that Britain is doing its bit to share in the burden of payments deficits which are the necessary counterpart of the enormous financial surpluses run by Opec countries.

Despite the existence of North Sea oil, Britain has a large current account deficit, which is expected to continue into 1981.

This has been covered by large inflows of money in the United Kingdom and it is pos-

sible that if sterling suddenly came under extreme pressure the Government might use some of the reserves to hold up the pound. However, many people in Britain fear that the pound is too high and is injuring industrial competitiveness.

High interest rates are another factor which is a concern to the world's other countries followed suit in an attempt to bolster their currencies.

However, since then American interest rates have started to come down. It is feared that Britain cannot lecture other countries too heavily about high interest rates as the Government's tight money policy has led to very high rates in Britain.

On the key issue of recycling the oil surplus to developing deficit countries, the Chancellor believes that the commercial banks can do much of the job, especially to start with. As a Conservative Chancellor he believes that the Government should not be too heavily involved in recycling the oil surplus.

Many fund managers are reluctant to move too much money overseas at present because sterling should represent a relatively safe currency as long as the world oil market remains volatile.

At present these are held up because of the printing dispute which is affecting production at Greenways (ironically a

subsidiary of Lonrho) which

House of Fraser faces Lonrho dividend claim

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

House of Fraser, the department stores group which owns Harrods, faces an unprecedented demand from its largest shareholder, Lonrho, to pay a higher dividend than that recommended by the board.

Lonrho, headed by the controversial businessman, Roland "Tim" Rowland, owns nearly 30 per cent of Fraser and is represented on the Fraser board by Mr Rowland.

Lonrho is dissatisfied with the level of final dividend payment of 5.7p a share gross recommended by the board and wants the company to pay 8.6p a share gross.

To try to achieve this it has requisitioned the company to include a special resolution at Fraser's annual meeting on June 19 that the payment of the higher dividend.

Lonrho as a shareholder is able to do this provided it gives 21 days' notice. Success for its resolution would depend on the support of 75 per cent of shareholders.

Fraser's board moved to resist this yesterday. In a curt announcement the company said that the terms of the special resolution and, if received in sufficient time, Lonrho's reasons would be circulated to shareholders with the report and accounts.

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Reshuffle at Grattan after profits slump

By Peter Wainwright

Grattan Warehouses, the troubled mail order group, has reshuffled its board after a financial disaster year.

Yesterday Mr Michael Pickard, chairman, announced the departures and appointments. Mr A. B. Andrews and Mr D. McKechie are being promoted from within the company to the board. Mr Andrews will take over as chairman and Mr McKechie as managing director.

Mr Donall Cunningham is demoted from executive director to non-executive. The most notable departure is Mr Michael Wainwright, who was finance director. The group is head hunting for a new one but so far in vain. The emoluments of the new post are not being disclosed. Nor is compensation.

Second in importance to this departure is the exit of Mr Kenneth Gray, the former company secretary and administrative director. Mr A. Malcolm replaces him.

The boardroom reorganization disappointed some in the City who had hoped to learn of a fresh blood coming into the boardroom where most directors have spent their working lives with Grattan.

They were also disappointed by Grattan's failure to link up with another retailing group. Mr Pickard reported that Grattan looked around but "in conjunction with our financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell & Co we concluded that... the company should maintain its

position as one of the few independent mail order companies."

The UDS group of Richard Shops, John Collier, Allister department stores, William Timmons and John Myers had 4.99 per cent of the shares, but now has only 2.77 per cent.

This boardroom reorganization is the second in a matter of months and follows recommendations from McKinsey, management consultants, who advised Grattan to retrench after an earlier dash for sales growth.

McKinsey spent nearly five months investigating the group. In the year to January 31 Grattan raised sales by 22½ per cent, slightly faster than the industry average of about 18.2 per cent.

But a near doubling of VAT, high interest rates and a big increase in spending on computerizing raised debts and lowered pretax profits from £11.28m to £4.45m. The group now has £33m of overdrafts and loans, but is still operating well within bank facilities.

Mr Pickard has been chairman of Grattan since 1977. He is deputy chairman of British Printing Corporation and was involved with BPC's joint ventures with Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press.

Mr Pickard was later officially exonerated from criticisms made against him by Department of Trade inspectors over International Learning Systems Corporation.

Financial Editor, page 19

Setback in profits for major companies

By Our Financial Staff

The mounting problems in the Middle East and on the industrial front produced a dull session in the markets yesterday. The FT Index closed down 0.4 at 434.8. Only major companies were rising, including Dunlop, Tootal and Vickers provided any interest.

Overcapacity in the European tyre industry produced another poor year for Dunlop Holdings. Despite a £10m loss from industrial disputes and patchy trading conditions in the group's non-tyre operations, operating profits were unchanged at £64m on sales 6 per cent higher at £1,569m.

But sharply higher interest costs of £47m cut pretax profits by 37 per cent to £29m and after an unusually high tax charge because European losses

could not be offset against profits elsewhere there are no attributable profits for shareholders.

Vickers, the engineering group, reported a fall of pre-tax profits from £11.7m to £7.3m, but the shares put on 5p to 120p on news that the dividend is being maintained and hopes that the Government will be soon paying for the group's nationalized aircraft and shipbuilding interests. Sales were slightly down from £391m to £389.8m.

Total profits were down by 30 per cent to £14.6m before tax, with poor trading conditions, the strength of sterling and high interest rates all contributing to the downturn.

The major reorganizations programme involving 3,000 redundancies in the United Kingdom is costing £8m.

Financial Editor, page 19

Pension scheme income increases by £1,584m

By John Whitmore

The net inflow of money into pension funds and life assurance schemes rose from £7,461m in 1978 to £9,045m last year.

Nearly half this increase was invested in Government stocks and although there was some evidence of higher overseas investment in the final quarter of 1979 after the abolition of exchange controls, the overseas rush to invest overseas.

Figures for the pension funds show that overseas investment in the final quarter rose to £1,584m, about 12½ per cent of their net inflow. However, their investment overseas for the whole of 1979 was marginally lower at £362m than the comparable 1978 figure, about 7½ per cent of their net inflow.

Comparable 1978 figures for life assurance funds' investment

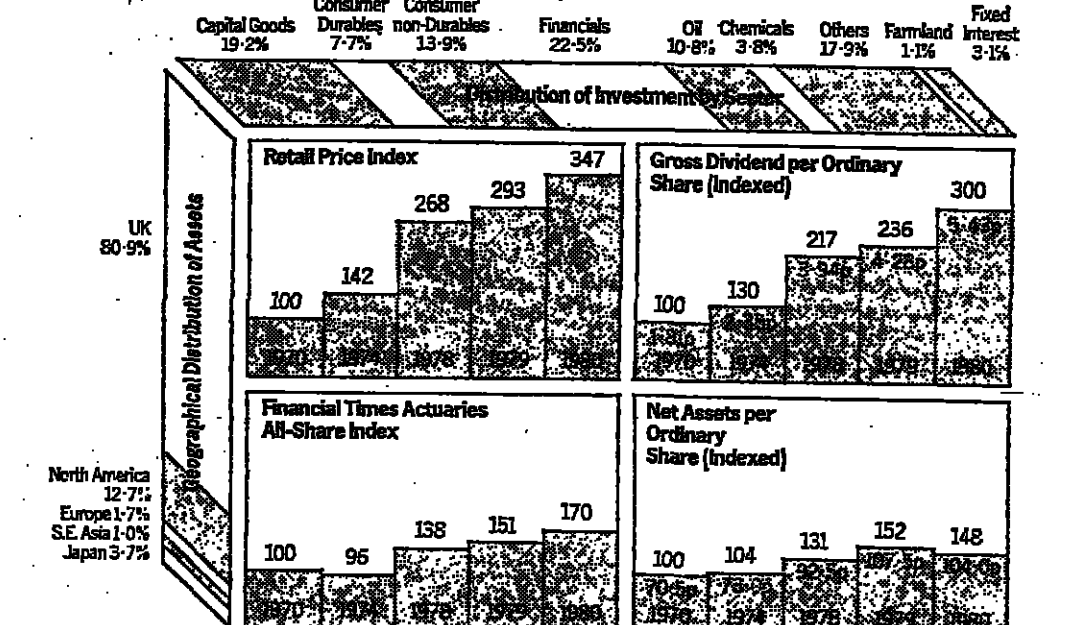
overseas are not available but in 1979 their total overseas investment amounted to only £93m, or just over 2 per cent of their increased income.

Institutional investors were able to invest overseas before the abolition of exchange controls through the premium currency market or by means of overseas loans but it was generally expected that many larger funds would gradually make use of their greater freedom to invest overseas.

For many funds the extent of their overseas exposure will be limited by the fact that their liabilities are mainly in sterling. Frasers' board moved to resist this yesterday. In a curt announcement the company said that the terms of the special resolution and, if received in sufficient time, Lonrho's reasons would be circulated to shareholders with the report and accounts.

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The International Investment Trust, Limited.



Total assets at 31st January 1980: £40.9 million.

The rising price of oil and accelerating inflation is making a slowdown in industrial activity both in the U.S. and the U.K. inevitable. The outlook for profits is uncertain. In the U.K. industry is faced with a very high level of wage increases and with a highly valued currency which is leading to very difficult export conditions and a high level of import penetration. The final dividend of

2.33p per share makes a total of 3.80p per share for the year, an increase of 29.3%. The current rate of dividend will be maintained and we intend to pay an interim dividend in October of 1.6p per share before attributable tax credit.

C. Michael Hughes, Chairman



A member of the Touche, Remnant Management Group.

Total funds under group management exceed £800 million.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary of The International Investment Trust, Limited, Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BH.

PRICE CHANGES

rs	28p to 591p
ntain	45p to 28p
W	27p to 48p
W	44p to 71p
ut	20p to 35p

Rae	15p to 655p
mon	15p to 387p
l	8p to 135p
F	10p to 355p
Simon	15c to 510c

Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22
11.22	11.22	11.22

Irish hive off another aspect of new technology

Computer creates Super bee

You cannot tell new technology by buzz off. The bees of the Irish Republic, engrossed in their daily search for the pollen of the Emerald Isle, are having their mating and working habits monitored by computer.

In Galway, a computer software company called Gaeleata, which caters mainly to the needs of Gaelic speakers, has developed a suite of programmes making bee husbandry as efficient as any modern assembly line.

Gaeleata's involvement began almost 18 months ago having when it was commissioned by Mil an tSúilín, professional beekeepers in the west of Ireland, to conduct a feasibility study.

The object of the exercise was to create a computerized system which would help to

breed a stronger bee more suitable to the Irish climate—the "superbee". The scale of the problem was challenging and the variables complex, dictated by the activities of 50,000 bees in each of 600 hives.

With all the necessary data in hand, the consultants began to write their

Leading British marine engine was 'a way of life' for many shipowners

End of the Doxford success story

The death of the Doxford marine engine, foreshadowed by British Shipbuilders last week, marks the end of an era for shipowners and marine engineers. Will it also be a tragically unnecessary event, which British engineering and the north-east coast in particular will one day bitterly regret?

The Doxford is Britain's only large slow-speed ship's engine at a time when the superiority of the oil engine over the steam turbine on grounds of fuel economy against rapidly rising bunker costs has reached the point at which owners are spending millions tearing turbines out of existing ships to replace them with diesels.

Not only is the Doxford an economical engine, it is the best of any at burning low-grade fuels, a quality which also is becoming steadily more valuable. Shipowners like it because it is simple, easy to maintain and free of vibration.

"The way things are going, the Doxford ought to be a winner," one marine engineer said yesterday. "The Doxford was a way of life for many shipowners," another said. "It is most unfortunate."

third one commented and "It is a bloody tragedy," a fourth one said. Why then are British Shipbuilders closing Doxford? The short answer is that no one is buying them, after what BS describes as an intensive worldwide sales effort over the past year.

"It is all very well talking about the future," a BS spokesman said yesterday, "but this is a business that is not viable in the short term rather than the long term, and we have tight financial restraints that force us to reduce losses."

To be fair, the troubles of the Doxford go back long before nationalization. "It is another of those cases of an engine being controlled by a shipyard," one engineer said yesterday.

"The yard is interested only in engines for its own ships. Profits are ploughed back into the shipyard rather than the engine works. Compared with other British works, Doxford has been starved of funds for years."

It looks like the classic British tale of decline and fall—even to the Doxford's designer, (long retired), an impish, irascible man in the true tradition of the quirky British inventor.

He retained faith in the opposed-piston

valveless design with the P-type (after Percy) and the J-type (after Jackson) through the Fifties and early Sixties when no one else was building anything like it, and that faith was justified with a 25-30 per cent market share and 25 licensees around the world.

When, in the late Sixties, owners wanted more powerful engines for ever-bigger ships Doxford had difficulty getting above 20,000 shp when rivals were producing 30-40,000. The big, extended crankshaft peculiar to the opposed-piston design suffered too much stress. Power requirements are falling again now though, with rising fuel costs; another factor working in the Doxford's favour.

But after years of neglect the licensees have all fallen away, the volume is not there, and British Shipbuilders say they have not the funds.

It will be interesting to see what Mr Robert Robinson makes of it if he takes over at BS in the summer. As managing director of Doxford briefly in the Sixties he tried to stop the rot, but lacked either the time or the influence or both.

Is it too late?

Michael Bailey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State support for rail pensions

From Mr A. G. Kenridge and Mr W. Gowran

Sir, The Transport Bill will be considered by the House of Lords shortly and I should like to draw your attention to the deep concern felt by railwaymen about the pensions clauses.

Government support for the railway pension funds is a well-established principle and arises because of the financial arrangements which were made in past years. The support extends only to certain "historic pensions", the pensions now being earned in the modern railway pension funds do not qualify for support.

The problem is that the Transport Bill adopts a rigid system of support based on a "once and for all" assessment before the end of 1981. This

assessment will have to be based on a number of assumptions regarding inflation, wage increases and the like over many years in the future and in practice the assumptions are almost bound to turn out incorrect.

The result is that either too much Government support will be provided or too little. If there is too much support, then the pensioners will receive unnecessary extra pensions at the taxpayers' expense.

If there is too little support, the cost will fall on the Railways Board, but if they are unable to meet it, then it is not clear where the money would come from.

We feel that it would be preferable to have an adjustable system of support so that the Government will meet the

cost (but no more than the cost of the "historic pensions" concerned).

We believe that this week has advantages for everyone concerned—the taxpayer, the Government, the Railways Board and the fund-member and pensioners. We therefore very much hope that there will be second thoughts about the Bill.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. KENRIDGE,

Chairman, British Railways Superannuation Fund

W. GOWRAN,

Chairman of Members' Committee, British Railways Superannuation Fund

Easton Square, PO Box 106, London NW1 2DZ

Computer information

From Dr A. J. Barrett

Sir, Those of us engaged in the transfer of technology and the application of knowledge will do well to take note of Mr William Norris' exhortation to "address society's major needs" (Kenneth Owen's article of April 11). One might have expected, however, that he would have tempered his enthusiasm for the power of large computer-based information systems by making some reference to the quality of the information which they will contain. Without this qualification such systems will fail to be technologically, and still less socially, acceptable.

Information of indefinite quality is already available in abundance and the layman is becoming aware that information "as such" may only compound his confusion. For example, the broadcast media increasingly show us experts, each well intentioned but each with a different interpretation of current knowledge or, to use modern jargon, "working from a different data base". This only adds to the difficulties of finding solutions to our problems. Society's reaction will increasingly be to discount, out of hand, the so-called "experts"—or possessor of information—unless some discipline is applied alongside Mr Norris' enthusiasm, the same

fact lies in store for computer systems—the information they contain.

Computer systems already exist which misinform because insufficient attention was given to the information before it was stored. Some others produce out-of-date information, because their masters are unaware that the best information is often ephemeral. If information is recalled from computer systems it is to be useful and, more importantly, acceptable to the society whose needs it is intended to serve, then the information stored must be carefully refined, evaluated and validated by a consensus of opinion of those competent to make the necessary judgements.

The processes by which this can be done are yet in their infancy and not widely disseminated. One can but hope that the need for the application of these processes will be accepted by trend leaders such as Mr Norris. Otherwise he may only have to instruct a band of Sioux Indians should their state of health ever be diagnosed by a computer system other than the one he has already provided!

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY J. BARRETT,

Chairman & Chief Executive, Engineering Sciences Data Unit Ltd.

251-259 Regent Street, London W1R 7AD.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dunlop's depressing decade

The tenth anniversary of the Pirelli union is turned into a wake for Dunlop where 1979 profits are at their lowest point since 1970. The link-up was heralded as the shape of things to come for European mergers. For a third year in a row profits have fallen and with none of the usual seasonal corker half improvement operating profits were marginally lower at £54m.

But with a fall in associate profits, chiefly in the Pirelli companies in South America, and a £13m jump to £47m in ancillary charges pre-tax profits slumped per cent to £29m. Worse still European sales are unprofitable for tax purposes showing up the tax charge to 97 per cent, 12 leave shareholders without a brass thing at the attributable level, after £13m 1978 before the £18m cost of Speke's sure.

There is no shortage of explanations for grim outcome—sterling's strength has exports, interest charges are higher. The strikes have cost the group £10m. But main problem is still the European operations with United Kingdom losses from £8m to £11m and Dunlop is not getting the improved world tyre supply—land to move into its favour until the end half of 1980.

Once again it has been the overseas nations that have come to the rescue. Dunlop's operating contribution of £48m to £62m, to fill the hole left by the £16m fall to only £2m at home. Tight reins have cut working capital by £6m, combining with unchanged capital of £54m has left gearing un- aged at 75 per cent of shareholders' is despite a £31m cash outflow during year.

Market was expecting the worst so maintained dividend and an encourage- first quarter trading report helped the improve 3p to 58p. The main sup- must be the 13 per cent yield.

With sales of almost £1,600m and the est gearing it does not take much to storm the bottom line but in the absence miracle such as Michelin falling under is it will be years before there is a ectable return on capital employed.

Use of Fraser to runs the company? ag put paid to Graham Ferguson y's ambitions last month Lorrho has led to direct some aggression at its single portfolio investment, House aser, Lorrho holds nearly 30 per cent raser's equity and its chairman, Mr d Rowland, is on the board of the ment stores group. But there is y no love lost between the two when o moves to get Fraser's final dividend ased from 5.7p a share gross to 8.5p.

Lorrho case is that it is acting on a of principle in trying to get a special ty to this effect before Fraser's meeting next month; it simply feels. Fraser could pay more given the tions during the years of dividend int, and that Fraser's dividend cover times (on an historic cost basis) could y be reduced to 1.87 times without tip.

er stocks in the sector suggest that o; Debenhams dividend for instance red 1.6 times. However, Fraser, which t increased its final dividend despite r trading year, will no doubt argue rudence is necessary in the face of the pressures on high street spending will develop as the recession wears

Lorrho does get its resolution before eeting then it will need a 75 per cent in favour to win the day. Fraser shares are being asked to decide who the company—Lorrho or the Fraser. At the end of the day it is as simple it.

ers lding round lering the problems of the engineer- industry Vickers has done better than and figures indicate. True, profits are from £11.7m to £7.3m, largely because her interest charges and poor perform- of the office engineering and Austr-

lian companies, but Vickers scorchel- rumours of a dividend cut by maintaining the payment and the shares gained 5p.

The United Kingdom engineering aide has been resilient enough to raise trading profits in spite of the engineering and transport strikes. This shows that rationalization measures are now showing through, though any real growth in lithographics will have to await the increase in capacity now in train. Finally total borrowings are only slightly up.

For the future the sale of the repro- graphic interests will add £40m to cash resources and then, eventually, there will be compensation for the nationalized shipbuilding and aerospace interests.

This could be worth perhaps 200p to 300p a share. At 120p the shares are on a fully taxed P/E ratio of 15 and yield 11.5 per cent.

Grattan Another overhaul Grattan's predicament was well leaked; even so the official news of a profits plunge from £11.28m to £4.45m and a maintained dividend of 8.99p gross is even grimmer than it looks.

First, Grattan has failed to find other concerns willing to partner it, or take it under their wings. Second, it is now to undergo a second management overhaul within months of the first, and has still not found a new finance director to pilot it. Third, the figures are bad.

Breakneck sales expansion which has given Grattan 11 per cent of the mail order market also brought in overdrafts of £18m and a £15m five-year loan at one per cent over interbank to set against shareholders' funds of £53m. So interest charges last year ballooned from £646,000 to £3,70m and only an addition to pretax profits of £1,97m reflecting a change in accounting practice for VAT stopped pretax profits from falling below the stated £4.45m.

Grattan, after making no money in the second half of last year could well do the same again in the first half of this, as higher postal and interest charges bite. The second half could be different if computerizing and streamlining get a following wind from recovering demand and cheaper money.

Meanwhile, the 12.8 per cent yield is not much bigger than on Debenhams or Woolworth, simply a lot more risky, until Grattan's management can prove that it can come to terms with the company's fundamental difficulties. The shares are 70p.

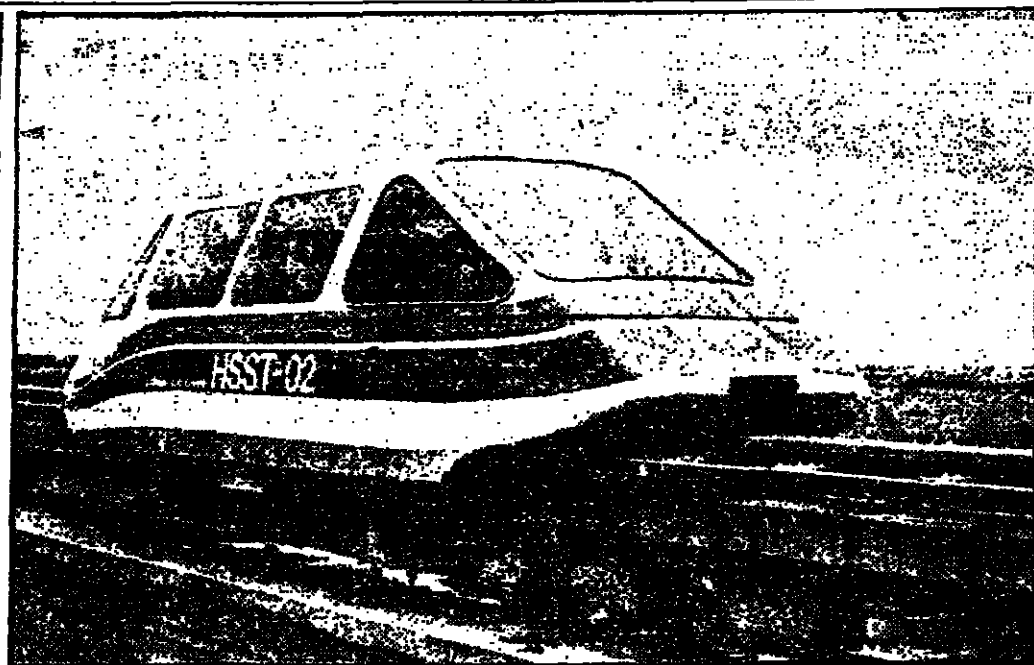
Tootal Coping with rationalization Tootal has coped well with the upheavals of the past and current year, costing some £8m in reorganization and closure costs taken below the line, though the sale of the Van Allan retail chain—released £16.5m—£7.3m over book value—has taken care of most of this.

So despite the 30 per cent fall in pretax profits to £14.6m and a £6.6m fall in retentions to £2.8m, Tootal ended the year to January 31 with net borrowings £10m lower at £55m and only a small drop in net worth to £125m.

Now Tootal has to cope physically with the rationalization which involves concentrating garment manufacture, and spinning on fewer sites and sorting out some of its textile activities. In the United Kingdom 3,000 jobs are going and most of these fall in the 1980-81 financial year this at a time when the textile cycle is reaching its nadir.

Tootal made virtually no profit in the final quarter of 1979-80 when retailer de- stocking began in earnest. With interest rates still high and, sterling strong the first half may be awful; depending on better final quarter trading conditions, full year profits might show a small improvement.

Current cost profits of only £600,000 included £5m losses from units being closed. By 1981-82 as rationalization pays off, Tootal is confident the dividend—up by 2 per cent gross—will be covered by current cost earnings. With the mostly healthy overseas operations providing nearly two-thirds of profits, a 16.9 per cent yield at 26p is attractive, enough to stay with the shares, but there is no hurry to buy.



The second prototype HSST train on a test run.

Technology

Levitation: answer to a Japanese transport problem

Peter Hill

Kawasaki, Japan From a somewhat makeshift (by Japanese standards) test centre reminiscent of those British films which sought to illustrate the country's wartime inventive genius, Mr Shimizu Nakamura and a team of development engineers from Japan Air Lines have been working on a remarkable vehicle.

It is the high speed surface transport (HSST) now going through its paces on a piece of reclaimed land a few miles from the centre of this bustling industrial city. It is the team's answer to the problem of drastically cutting travel times over land.

JAL initiated the research and development work on the HSST nine years ago. It used as a starting point work done in France and West Germany on a linear motor propelled electromagnetic levitation system. The development work has now reached the point where more than 2,500 passengers have experienced a "flight" at an altitude of 10 millimetres on HSST-02, operated by linear motor propulsion, as the JAL boarding card says.

The first unmanned test vehicle reached a speed of about 192 miles an hour more than two years ago and was quickly followed by the manned version which is able to carry a "plus" and eight passengers. In its development work JAL has adopted an aircraft engineering approach to the concept with the operational prototype vehicle's lines resembling that of a foreshortened DC8 aircraft. Levitation is produced by magnetic attraction and repulsion.

Magnets fixed on the side of the fuselage are drawn upward toward the anchor rails mounted on a track, producing the lift that raises the vehicle above the rail. Propulsion is through a linear induction motor which operates on the same principle as the conventional rotary electric motor, but is opened up into a flat shape.

Underlying the development was the desire to provide an effective and efficient means of ferrying passengers between Tokyo's new Narita international airport and the city centre—a distance of about 41 miles. It was calculated that travellers could be whisked between the airport and the city in a remarkable 14 minutes.

That dream has yet to be fulfilled. Though the vehicle's low noise level, clean operation and low energy consumption are themselves an attraction, the entire project is now in some

Predictably Mr Nakamura and his team are less than enthusiastic about imparting all the technical information they have assembled over the years to a larger and more diverse group. But if that is the price of going further, the indications are that JAL will pay it.

The stakes in both cases are high and great prestige is attached to both ventures. In the background the designers and the engineers are beavering away drawing up their next programme of development tests, while company executives and politicians search for an acceptable agreement.

Meanwhile, the JAL team scored a propaganda coup earlier this month during the state visit by King Gustav of Sweden. The king had indicated his wish to travel on the railways' world famous "bullet train", but the uncertainty about the timing of the now traditional one-day national railway strike meant that the royal wish went unfulfilled.

Instead he went for a flight on the HSST at Kawasaki, where JAL executives, never backward at coming forward, made it quietly known that if ever Sweden were to adopt the HSST it would cut the journey time for the 25 miles between Stockholm's Arlanda airport and the Swedish capital to only ten minutes.

The Japanese railways test version flies along the rail at a height of 10 centimetres above the track on a magnetic cushion created by the force of repulsion between two magnets. So far the railways have poured in an estimated 23,000m yen and a further 100,000m yen will be needed before the project reaches the point of being commercial.

JAL refuses to say officially how much has been spent on its HSST project, but it has received some aid from the government. Last year the transport ministry agreed to provide a further sum. That has now been carried over into the new financial year and will be paid only on condition that the airline agrees to form a research and development corporation outside its own operations—which will embrace steel-makers, electrical machinery companies and other major industrial concerns.

It appears that there is a fair amount of political infighting between the airline and the officials of the transport ministry, but the hope and expectation is that the present difficulties will be settled within the next few months.

Policies that hindered the car makers

Is Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, about to achieve a long sought after period of labour relations stability or is he facing continued disruption in his group?

If the former, he will be praised for his tough, no-nonsense tactics in breaking down union and worker opposition. If the latter, public opinion will turn once more against what it sees as the idle, strike-prone and suicidal British car workers.

The public has become used to seeing the motor industry—and BL in particular—portrayed in such black and white terms—bad management versus an anarchic workforce. But the truth, of course, is that the British motor industry's record of chronically bad industrial relations is a symptom not the cause, of a declining industry, one which has been the object of decades of government tinkering and interference.

Over the last 35 years successive administrations have formulated policies in the pursuit of social, economic and political ends that have at best contributed to the industry's frustrations and may have helped to bring it to the brink of extinction.

This thesis is supported by Peter Dunnett, assistant professor of economics at Royal Roads Military College and the University of Victoria, Canada. In his book on United Kingdom policy towards the motor industry published this week he says: "Overall, government policy dealing with the United Kingdom motor industry from 1945 and 1979 was a failure."

More specifically, he argues that many factors have contributed to bad labour relations in the industry over many years, most of them government inspired. Government policies aimed at increasing exports, regional balance, labour reform, incomes control and so on have all contributed to poor labour relations.

Similarly if one looks for the causes of poor product ranges, dated designs, obsolete capital, unsatisfactory management and all the other problems of the industry, government policy is frequently a factor at some time in the past and frequently agreed to by reformers, an important factor."

The history of the United Kingdom car industry since the end of the Second World War is punctuated with a series of attempts by governments to stimulate its recovery, reform it or use it as an economic regulator. Because it is a huge consumer of capital and labour and is an international industry producing goods that everybody wants, it has been an ideal tool for governments in shaping economic strategy.

Sadly, Mr Dunnett says, much of the influence exerted on the industry by politicians was undesirable. From the introduc-

tion of ambitious export quotas in 1946 to the end of the social contract in 1979 many unfavourable policies were introduced.

Stop-go demand management policies improved the country's balance of payments and forced more cars into the export markets, but also "reduced industry profits, discouraged investment, worsened labour relations, emphasized the short-run basis of exports and, for the long run, weakened the motor industry and made it less competitive internationally."

Regional policy, introduced in 1959, was another Whitehall idea that did no good to the motor industry. "By forcing a geographical dispersion of an already too fragmented industry, efficiency and international competitiveness suffered."

At the same time "an unsuitable and fractious labour cohort" arrived on the motor industry scene intent, in many people's minds, on exploiting the factory unrest and dissatisfaction for political ends.

"Failure to reform labour relations successfully (instead, reform aggravated labour relations) had negative consequences," Mr Dunnett says. The turning point for the United Kingdom motor industry, he says, was the early 1970s, British cars were no longer internationally competitive, the Japanese were expanding their industry rapidly and imports into the United Kingdom were rising fast.

"By 1973 the balance of trade in cars, which for so many years had shown a healthy surplus was just about in balance. The long-term consequences of a quarter of a century's use of the United Kingdom motor industry as an economic regulator had finally come home."

There followed the two political dramas of the decade, which affected the motor industry. First came the ill-fated Ryder Plan for British Leyland and then the rescue of Chrysler (UK) by a reluctant government intent on political expediency and saving jobs rather than long-term economic sense.

With the motor industry now less important, Mr Dunnett foresees a lessening of government involvement. But he predicts that as machines begin to replace men in the car assembly operation and as the United Kingdom's share of world markets continues to decline, that there will be an inevitable contraction of the workforce. The result—a grim prospect for an industry which has had a generation of instability—is that bad labour relations will remain as a plague in the nation's car factories.

Edward Townsend

"The Decline of the British Motor Industry, by Peter J. S. Dunnett; Croom Helm, £10.95.



Interim Statement

The Directors have pleasure in presenting an Interim Report for the six months ended 31st December, 1979 (unaudited).

Six months to:	31st Dec. 1979	31st Dec. 1978
Sales	£'000	£'000
	7,783	5,942
Profit before tax	1,516	737
Taxation	37	38
Profit after taxation	1,479	699
Interim Dividend	107	78
Earnings per Share	(6.9p)	(3.3p)

Profits at the interim stage have more than doubled and the Directors have declared a Dividend of 0.5p per share, an effective increase of 37% after adjustment for the capitalisation issue in November 1979.

A consistent pattern of prime property development, in part forward sold, has now been established in diversified and sizeable schemes involving commercial, retail and industrial projects.

These developments, together with a significant contribution from our Housing Division, will substantially reflect through in the current and future trading profits.

It is anticipated that the full year's profits will be in the region of £3m, adding substantially to shareholders' funds and enabling further expansion whilst maintaining reasonable gearing.

M. P. Kent (Chairman)

M. P. KENT LIMITED

Property Developments
Northcliffe House, Colston Avenue, Bristol.
Telephone (0872) 218127.

Business Diary: Expatriates in the desert



"You are mixing up D. H. Lawrence, Lady Chatterley and all that with T. E. Lawrence in my view the only Briton who really understood the Middle East and the Arabs."

is to be believed, is a house built upon sand, and about how the Americans are reputed to have developed a new mine to blockade Iraq which, if unactivated, would sink without trace within a year.

The expat target of these questions paused, took in our surroundings, an opulent open air nightclub on the shores of the Gulf, and said with an exasperated expression: "It all seems pretty peaceful here."

Next day the big American car arrived to take us on the three-hour drive to Jubal Dhanna, a journey through the most primitive of landscapes. Every quarter mile or so you see the rusting corpse of a car—usually a Mercedes or Volvo. They remind one of the buffalo skulls by the side of wagon tracks in hazy old westerns.

The Straits of Hormuz, through which most of the West's oil passes, are lost far to the south along with a less publicized threat to the peace of the Middle East, the islands off Iran's coastline which she holds in contention with Iraq. Besides the consular officials who see it their job to know such facts, the expat community remains aloof from these matters.

Towards Oman, the traffic becomes heavier, punctuated by heavy lorries carrying industrial loads. Of the cars that we see, none are British. Petrol at 45p a gallon does not breed economy and there is no reason why it should.

Jabal Dhanna, a growing petrochemical complex, looms above the horizon, pumping smoke into the washed water-colour sky. For some reason I thought of the ICI works on Teesside.

The British community pene-

trates the UAE in every direction. Even at the airport, United Kingdom passport holders receive preferential treatment. The British Ambassador has arrived for the opening of a new hotel; actually the hotel is not open yet, but the local British community, something he feels he has not done for some time.

"It's all very colonial", someone says. "It is a very tight community."

Another expat responds when I start the endless round of questions formulated in London: "It's the media—you would never hear about all this if it were not for the media."

It must be difficult to feel insecure in Abu Dhabi. I find the British here more a puzzle than anybody else. Two advertisements out of the Gulf Times: "Complete railway layout, British steam landscape baseboard, urgent sale"; and a marriage "to take place at the British Embassy, Doha, on April 30." They should have been written in Surrey.

The English tend to be colonial in the purest sense, existing for each other, taking little interest in world affairs, hoping one day to return home with a handsome bank balance. Such hopes are usually in vain, except for the highly skilled people who would earn large fees anywhere in the world.

Abu Dhabi, for those who want to work in the Middle East is the plum posting. It has one great advantage over its neighbours, which the British love most dearly—alcohol is not banned although there are restrictions.

The guide books tell you a lot about places like the United Arab Emirates, but like most such publications they are selective with their advice.

It is, for example, common knowledge that taxi fares—taxi being one of the main forms of transport for Europeans here—have to be haggled over. What the guide books do not say is how to haggle.

For the record, there is no more humiliating experience than manfully to walk up to a taxi and name what seems like a well-over-the-odds price only to be laughed to scorn by the driver, who then points out the vehicle behind. When the second driver begins to adopt the same attitude the neophyte visitor may be forgiven for wondering whether he has somehow grasped the wrong end of the stick. The trick is: do not haggle outside the taxi—get in before you start arguing the toss.

At least I have not yet been subjected to the experience which a colleague of mine had in this fair land some years ago. Having paid handsomely and in advance for a hire car to take him round Abu Dhabi for the day, he called on the driver to make for the airport where his plane was due to take off in less than an hour.

Not until some 20 minutes or so of hectic driving had elapsed did my colleague realize that the driver was taking him on a road which led into the desert, not towards the airport. And the word the driver kept intoning was "A-K-S-H-E-E-S-T-I".

David Hewson

TOMATIN DISTILLERS

Proprietors of the largest Malt Whisky Distillery in Scotland

Mr. A. P. de Boer reports on 1979: ● Exports increased 51% to £1,228,000.

● Production of new whisky was maintained at 1978 level despite the adverse effects of outside strikes, but increased overheads resulted in a 4% reduction in pre-tax profit to £840,000.

● Total dividend increased by 10% to 5.36p per share.

● Group Reserves increased to over £3 million from £1.8 million announced last year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Tomatin Distillers Company Limited, 34 Dover Street, London W1X 4HX.

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T r i n g i n g i n g i n g

Group of 10 agree on need to switch IMF resources

Ministers' move to recycle oil wealth

The ministers and central bank governors of the Group of 10 countries yesterday agreed that the resources of the International Monetary Fund would have to be used to a greater extent than in the past in recycling the excess wealth of the oil-producing nations.

After a meeting of the group, Herr Manfred Lahnstein, the state secretary in the West German Finance Ministry and chairman of the Group of 10 deputies, said that delegates had agreed the IMF should be up to the task because it had a very satisfactory liquidity position at present.

There was no need for the Fund to seek additional resources although it should become necessary at some time in the future they would have to come to a large extent from those few countries in the world with a balance of payments surplus.

The Fund has had to turn to the problem of financing the balance of payments deficits of the non-oil-developing countries which are now expected to reach \$67,500m (£29,867m) this year from \$54,900m in 1979 and \$56,200m in 1978.

The role the Fund will play in recycling is due to be discussed today when the IMF's interim committee meets. The Fund itself is keen to take on recycling functions but aware of the pitfalls that could be involved.

Although liquidity may be adequate at present, recycling could lead to the IMF having one day to engage in borrowing transactions to increase its scope for assisting countries in balance of payments troubles.

Yesterday M. Jacques de Larosière, the managing director of the IMF, gave an indication of the line he will take at today's meeting.

He stressed that the Fund would lend to countries as part of the recycling process in connection with programmes to stabilize their economies and he advocated the IMF handling only part of the borrowing requirement of countries in difficulty. Not only would this conserve fund resources but it would encourage other sources to provide financial support.

M. de Larosière defended the Fund against criticism from developing countries by saying

the conditionality attached to fund lending was the best way of bringing about structural changes in economies in a state of imbalance.

However it would appear that the IMF sympathizes with those developing nations that complain that its lending terms are too stringent. The Fund is expected to tell the interim committee that the interest rates attached to the Winter-veen facility, introduced after the first oil crisis but hardly ever used to finance small deficit countries, could be subsidized.

It is also expected to suggest liberalizing the scope of countries to borrow in respect of their quota obligations and that fund assistance could be supplemented by aid flows. It is also thought that M. de Larosière will suggest that the Fund play a more active role in simple lending before the imposition of economic policy conditions is required.

Among delegates urging a greater role for the IMF in recycling yesterday was Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the West German Federal

Bank. However, speaking for the Group of 10, Herr Lahnstein said the delegates attending yesterday's meeting agreed that the Fund and the World Bank should retain their separate identities, with the IMF specifically concerned with handling balance of payments deficits and invested with the power to impose policy decisions.

The Group of 10 meeting also examined the remains of the project to set up a substitution account at the IMF after Wednesday's disclosure by Herr Hans Matthöfer, the West German Finance Minister, that real progress on this issue was no longer to be expected this week.

Herr Lahnstein said the ministers agreed that the account should contribute to the stability of the international monetary system and that the studies must take into account the legitimate interests of the developing countries. These had been particularly critical of plans to use IMF gold to guarantee the account.

Peter Norman
in Hamburg

Shell's N Sea taxes '£9,500m over five years'

By Nicholas Hirst

Shell UK yesterday said that it estimated it would pay a total of £9,500m in taxes on its North Sea oil revenue between 1981 and 1985.

This did not include payments taken in kind by the Government on the 12½ per cent royalty. Of the £9,500m some £7,500m would be paid in petroleum revenue tax (PRT), the remainder in corporation tax. The rate from PRT had increased by about £700m as a result of the increase in the rate from 60 per cent to 70 per cent and changes in the timing of payments, instituted in the last Budget.

Shell expects to start paying PRT at the end of this year or the beginning of next. No provision has been made for payments in its 1979 accounts although provision has been made by Esso, Shell's partner in all its fields currently in production. This is because of different accounting treatments.

Net income for Shell UK, part of the Royal Dutch Shell group of international companies, was £376m last year compared with a loss of £26m in 1978.

Despite rising oil production in the years to 1985, Mr John Raiman, chairman and chief executive, believed that profits this year would be unlikely to

match the after-tax income last year, and that they would not rise substantially in real terms over the next three or four years because of the increasing tax.

On average the total tax borne by Shell's fields will be between 83 and 85 per cent. The company now expects further rises in oil prices are likely to be followed by rises in taxes.

Its exploration and development effort, however, is continuing. Capital spending in the North Sea this year will be £400m with £37m being spent on exploration. The remainder will include the continued development of the Cormorant fields,

the Brent complex, Fulmar and the "Flags" gas system from Brent. It is estimated that Shell's share of North Sea production will be 15 per cent in 1985.

Shell has agreed with the state-owned British National Oil Corporation to bid jointly for licences west of Shetlands to be offered in the Government's seventh round.

Shell's partnership with Esso will continue in the North Sea, where all fields currently in production are located. Shell is drilling a well west of Shetlands in 2,000ft of water, the deepest yet attempted by the group on the British continental shelf.

Chemical industry restructure urged

By John Huxley

The European Commission was urged yesterday to encourage the restructuring of the western European chemicals industry, needed if it is to retain its preeminence in world markets.

Mr Iain Steel, general manager of BP Chemicals corporate planning department, accused the commission of taking an ambivalent attitude towards the industry's attempts to reorganize itself on an efficient, competitive basis.

"Our friends in Brussels have really got to stop taking this view. They should encourage industry restructuring to face external threats or accept that the European chemicals industry can no longer maintain its number one position in the world", Mr Steel said.

He told a conference on chemical feedstocks in the 1980s, held in London, that direct intervention by the commission was neither desirable nor necessary.

However, it should take a "mature view" when approached on restructuring. In the past, the commission had been anxious to ensure that reorganization did not run contrary to community competition policy.

Mr Steel said that the commission should act in a prompt and vigilant manner to protect chemicals from foreign dumping. He also questioned the commission's "benevolent treatment of some rather well-developed developing nations" and the "special position" occupied by the East German producers.

By comparison with EEC law, American anti-trust legislation was enlightened and more liberal, Mr Steel said. At present, western Europe is the largest producer of chemicals in the world.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Investors stay away as Middle East fears worsen

End-of-account considerations and problems at home and overseas continued to confuse the market yesterday.

Equities again failed to take any initiative either way and with the account-drawing to a close, prices drifted aimlessly between narrow levels.

The worsening situation in Saudi Arabia and Iran led dealers to discuss the possibility of an eventual confrontation between the United States and Russia. Further gloom was cast by the NUK, which decided, surprisingly, to reject the British Rail offer of a 20 per cent pay increase. This was the final straw for investors who scurried back to the sidelines to wait for the next bit of good news.

However, the market was able to take some comfort from another long list of companies reporting, and trading statements, Dunlop allowed jobbers to breathe a sigh of relief, with some full year figures up to expectations, accompanied by a bullish forecast. This pushed the share price up to 58p, as another 500,000 shares were sold to Far East interests following further "active" inquiry.

The figures inspired a few bargain hunters elsewhere. But buying was short lived, and while prices remained steady in late afternoon, the FT index closed 4½ down at 434.8. In gilts, a continuing bout of indignation amid rumours of several new "raps" being announced today, proved all too much. Prices were lower right across the board as dealers reported a small selling. The general feeling was that invest-

ors were being forced to sell stock, as a result of the squeeze on cash and high interest rates.

The latest cuts in United States prime rates had no real effect, although most observers remain optimistic that there will be a reduction in United Kingdom interest rates in the near future.

In shorts, prices fluctuated all day but were 2½ lower at the close, while in longs falls

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HCH

Results

Year ended 31st December	1979	1978
Turnover	£272.2	£246.9
Exports	35.9	32.8
Profit before tax	36.2	30.4
Profit after tax	28.2	20.0
Capital expenditure	31.3	26.5
Shareholders' interest	160.5	112.1
Earnings per share	20.9p	15.7p
Dividends per share	5.0p	3.7p

Growth continues Record profits for fifth successive year

'The effect of strikes in the U.K. meant effectively the Group operated on a ten-month year... once again industrial action is going to prevent us from fulfilling our potential... we shall make every effort to minimise the damage - we continue to do everything we can to expand and... drive the Group forward.'

Peter Goodall (Chairman)

Other salient points from the Chairman's circulated statement

Although a number of factors, many completely outside our control, had an adverse effect on our performance, 1979 continued our growth and profits advanced to record levels for the fifth successive year.

We continued in 1979 as we have in past years to do everything we can to expand, update and modernise our business. Our efforts in research and development have been maintained.

As our home markets decline our exports become more and

more vital to us... It is a matter of utmost gravity and concern that the rate of inflation should be brought down to enable us to compete in foreign markets with nations whose rate of inflation is very often less than one-third of ours.

We have indeed a lot going on... we are committed to the long term growth and expansion of the Group; we are anticipating capital expenditure at the rate of some £40m a year over the next three years to meet the growth which we see before us.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 14th May in London. Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Gungah House, Tipton Park Road, Sheffield S20 3FJ.

HEPWORTH CERAMIC HOLDINGS LIMITED

HCH

Leaders in clayware, refractories and industrial sands and prominent in plastics, foundry resins & equipment, engineering etc.

APE amalgamated power engineering limited

MANUFACTURERS OF DIESEL ENGINES, STEAM TURBINES, COMPRESSORS, GEARS, PUMPS & VALVES

Extracts from the 1979 Report and Accounts

	1979	1978
Turnover	£69,483	£64,771
Trading profit including associates	3,279	6,940
Interest paid - net	1,723	160
Profit before tax and extraordinary item	1,556	6,780
Profit after tax - earnings	792	5,274
Extraordinary item - redundancy payments	383	-
Earnings per share	5.77p	38.44p
Dividend per share including tax credit	8.8p	8.8p
Shareholders' funds	£24,789	£25,244
Capital employed	32,656	29,280
Net assets per share	£1.81	£1.84

The poor results of 1979 are a reflection of the impact of many factors that were largely outside the Group's previous trading experience. In particular, the strikes that bedevilled the whole of British Industry, including the internal industrial dispute at the Bedford Division and the lorry drivers' strike in the first six months of the period, followed by the Engineers' national strike in the second half of the period, seriously interrupted output, which was only partly made up in the last three months of the year. The actual loss of output was approximately £10 million which resulted in a loss of £2.5 million of profit. These interruptions to output led to a considerable build up of stocks and work-in-progress necessitating a rapid build up of borrowing which, together with the very high interest rates, caused a large increase in the cost of financing working capital.

Having regard to the current levels of output and the current state of the order book, the Board takes an optimistic view of the future and therefore is recommending a final dividend of 3.08p per share to maintain the gross dividend for 1979 at the same level as for the previous year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts for the year will be sent to shareholders on 15 May 1980.

ROLINCO scores high with energy stocks

- * Near 12% growth in 6 months to 29 February.
- * Net purchases in Far East and Australia, and in Britain.
- * International spread and concentration in energy stocks major contributors to this result.
- * Total assets at 29 February £15,240 million.



Copies of the Interim Report and an explanatory booklet are available from the Company.

DEPT. 7821, P.O. BOX 973 ROTTERDAM-HOLLAND

FINANCIAL NEWS

Linford Holdings Weeks £11.5m with rights issue

Philip Robinson
Cash and carry and super-
cash group Linford Hold-
ings is asking shareholders to
1.5m via a rights issue to
finance expansion.
The terms, unveiled yester-
day, are one new ordinary share
for every four existing shares
at one new share for every
nominal of the group's 12
cent loan stock 1988/90,
new shares will be offered
188p.
In the announcement Linford
res dropped 8p to 134p,
ring the discount of the
its price to 12 per cent, and
ing the company on its
ting 33.7 million shares at
m.
Linford's last rights issue
five years ago when it
ed just over £1m. Since then
its been on a fairly con-
ant acquisition trail culmi-
g with the £24m agreed bid
Wheatheaf Distribution and
ing, in May 1978.
ver the past two years Lin-
has spent £15m on expan-
funded mainly from re-
d profits, bank facilities
property disposals as a
it of rationalization.
at almost complete, Lin-
is anxious for more hyper-
space to add to the
100 square feet operated by
arrefour.
taint the major High
t stores like Tesco, Asda
Salisbury, Linford was
to develop the West
don District Centre which

will include a Carrefour of
70,000 square feet. That develop-
ment will cost an estimated £9m
over the next two years.
In addition it has tendered
for another district centre in
East London, and has an option
on a Croydon site—where a
planning inquiry starts in the
autumn—and another in
southern England.
Mr David Linnell, the manag-
ing director, said: "We thought
it was the right time to ask for
more capital. We have been
busy reorganizing after the
Wheatheaf merger and this is
time for another stage in our
development."
Backing the cash call is a
promise of not less than £13.5m
profits for the year to the end
of April against £10.8m last
time. After a 25 per cent rise
in interest charges to £4m, pre-
tax earnings will come out at
least a quarter better at £9.5m.
On those figures Mr Linnell
intends paying a gross final of
10.714p which will be paid on
the new shares. With the
interim, the total will go up
from 14.12p to 15.714p a share.
Next year the group, which
runs 254 stores, 45 warehouses,
87 cash and carry outlets and
five hypermarkets, hopes to give
a detailed breakdown of earn-
ings. By then it will have put
into companies which it now
comprises on one accounting
basis.
Cash and carry at present rep-
resents 38 per cent of the
business with a selling area of
2.8m square feet.

Payout held as Amalg Power falls to £1.5m

By Our Financial Staff
Amalgamated Power Engi-
neering's profits fell from £6.7m
to £1.5m last year but the
group has maintained the total
dividend as a sign of confi-
dence, and the shares, already
discounting bad news, held
steady at 77p.
The directors said yesterday
that a strike at their Bedford
division and the loss of their
strike hit first-half earnings,
and the second-half was af-
fected by the engineering strike.
These "seriously" disrupted
output which was partly made
up in the final three months
of last year, but cost £2.5m in
lost profits.
Short term deposits of £2.8m
ended the year as borrowings
of £5.6m and the group's in-
terest charge rose from £10,000
to £1.7m. This brought trading
profit, already down by half,
to a pre-tax figure of 77 per cent
lower at £1.5m.
However, the directors said
that with current levels of out-
put and the state of the order
book, they feel optimistic for
the future and have recom-
mended a 4.4p gross final giving
an unchanged total for the year
at 8.8p.

International Thomson profits up

By Our Financial Staff
Profits of International
Thomson Organisation, the
Toronto-based parent company
of Times Newspapers Ltd, rose
from £136.7m before tax in
1978 to £165.2m last year,
despite a sharp increase in the
losses from United Kingdom
national newspapers because of
the costs of the closure of
The Times and *The Sunday*
Times.
Losses on the United King-
dom national newspapers in-
creased from £1.3m in 1978 to
£39.3m last year, on sales
reduced from £66.3m to £13.1m.
However, these losses were
very largely offset by an in-
crease in the profits from
Thomson's oil and gas opera-
tions, which rose from £7.5m
to £103m, after the payment of
petroleum revenue tax (which
was more than doubled at
£73.3m as against £32.4m).

The travel side also did well,
with profits increasing from
£17.3m to £21.2m, on sales up
by about a third from £152.1m
to £205.5m.
The United Kingdom regional
newspapers showed a marginal
improvement, with profits up
from £13m to £13.7m, but there
was a setback in publishing,
where profits fell from £7.2m
to £2.5m.
In all, profits after deduction
of petroleum revenue tax, but
before other taxes and interest
charges, declined from £114.1m
to £58.7m.

After crediting £4m for taxes
provided for in previous years,
and now no longer required, the
main tax charge has declined
from £58.5m to £48.5m. Attri-
butable earnings, in conse-
quence, amount to £41.4m, as
against £44.1m, equivalent to
29.7p (fully diluted) a share.
The directors, who declared
dividends equivalent to 5p
(7.14p gross) per common share
during 1979, have now declared
a dividend of 2.55p (3.64p gross)
a share to be paid on July 15.
A dividend equivalent to 10.5p
per convertible share was paid
last year, and another of 5.25p
per convertible share has now
been declared. The ordinary
dividends will absorb £2.6m in
all, and the convertible divi-
dends £16.6m.
Mr Michael Brown, formerly
finance director of Thomson
British Holdings (the principal
United Kingdom subsidiary of
International Thomson), has
been appointed a joint deputy
managing director of the com-
pany, together with board mem-
ber Mr James Evans. Mr
Gordon Brunton remains manag-
ing director and chief executive.

European accountancy federation formed

By Adrienne Gleeson
Two large European account-
ancy firms have joined the con-
tinental associates of Arthur
Young, McLelland Moores to
form (with Arthur Young's
offices on the continent), a new
European federation of account-
ing firms to be known as AMSA.
The practices of the two addi-
tions to the European network
—Moret & Lippert/Moret
Gudde Brinkman of The Nether-
lands, and Schitzig Schwabe
Treuhander of West
Germany—will be merged with
those of existing associates, so
that in most cases there will be
one prominent member firm
operating in each of the 15
countries in which AMSA is
represented.
Negotiations are in progress
for the addition of other promi-
ent national firms to the AMSA
network, but these will be
within countries where AMSA is
represented already.
The new federation will have
its headquarters in Amsterdam,
and will begin operations on
July 1.
Members of AMSA will
employ some 5,500 people, and
will have total annual revenues
of more than \$225m.

Steady rise continues at Haden Carrier

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Haden Carrier increased pre-
tax profits by 38 per cent to
£3.78m in the year to December
31 and remains optimistic that
the steady improvement seen
in recent years can be main-
tained in 1980. Group turnover
rose by 7 per cent to £202m
in 1979.
The balance sheet has been
strengthened, and Haden has
taken out a new £7m medium-
term loan facility to allow
flexibility in the future, al-
though Haden has no specific
use for it at the moment.
Trading profits in 1979 from
the main United Kingdom mar-
ket were 12 per cent lower at
£3.5m, reflecting pressure on
margins, on a maintained level
of business in building ser-
vices activities.
In the United States, where
Haden produces metal finishing
and conveyor equipment for
the automotive industry, profits
also slipped from the excep-
tional level seen in 1978. But
1980 looks quite promising.
Up 10p at 117p, the shares
yield 12.2 per cent after a 13
per cent increase in the gross
dividend.

ationalization helps oover recovery

Richard Allen
Industrial rationalization at
last year has turned a
ous first-quarter deficit
619,000 into a profit of
m in the three months to
h 31.
However, the group con-
t yesterday that a sales
if just over £1m to £31m
a "significant"
ie drop despite fairly
nt conditions in the
stic appliance market.
: figures coincided with
arter results from
r's American parent,
holds almost 71 per cent
United Kingdom group's
ry shares, showing a 40
rise in net profits to
(about £3.2m).
s of Hoover of the
l States rose 18 per cent
over \$215m during the
months moves made by
r UK last year in a bid
erse a five-year profits
e included reducing the
rce by almost 2,000 to
11,000.
-year profits last time

were £3.6m, compared with
£3.3m previously and £20.4m in
1975.
The United Kingdom group
said yesterday that last year's
action was beginning to take
effect and that with improved
labour relations the outlook
was more encouraging.
A problem, however, con-
tinued to be the group's
failure to meet demand for
washing machines and vacuum
cleaners. There are fears that
this demand could begin to
evaporate later in the year as
consumer spending comes
under pressure.
The group's hopes rest sub-
stantially on the new range of
automatic washing machines
recently introduced in the
United Kingdom. Hoover plans
several new model launches in
the United Kingdom and over-
seas in the next few months.
The group said that profits
from Australia continued to
improve significantly but the
50 per cent stake in Hoover
Holland produced a loss of
£191,000 against a previous
profit of £312,000.

Anglo American Gold Investment Company Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Extracts from the review by the Chairman Mr. J. Ogilvie Thompson

Financial

Equity earnings rose by 83 per cent, to R127.9 million for the year ended February 28 1980 and dividends distributed more than doubled to 525 cents a share. The value of investments rose to R246 million as against R103 million. Both earnings and the value of investments substantially exceeded any figures achieved previously and it is worth noting that this is the first time that Anglo's earnings have exceeded R100 million.

These results clearly reflect the greatly increased gold prices prevalent during 1979.
The gold mines' working revenue from gold increased by 46.7 per cent to R566.3 million, which also reflects the 3.3 per cent average appreciation in the value of the rand in US dollar terms and a drop of 0.2 per cent in gold production. While the total capacity of the gold mining industry continued to expand in 1979 with an increase of 6.9 per cent in ore milled, this was more than offset by a 7.5 per cent decrease in average grade, to 8.19 grams a ton, which resulted in a marginal reduction of gold produced from 704.5 tons to 702.8 tons. This trend is likely to continue as the higher gold prices enable mines to turn to account lower-grade ore, thereby extending their working-lives.

The slower rate of increase in working costs per ton milled, which had been a feature of the previous year, continued during 1979; costs per ton rose 11.0 per cent compared with 13.7 per cent in 1978. This increase, coupled with the drop in grade and increased tonnage milled, resulted in an increase in unit working costs of gold of 20.4 per cent, to R346.4 kilogram or R129.29 an ounce. Working profit rose by 76 per cent, to R310.1 million.

Uranium profit, State assistance and sundry revenue resulted in total profit of R353.7 million, compared with R207.3 million in 1978. Capital expenditure on producing mines increased substantially by 54 per cent, to R689 million. Profit after providing for capital expenditure therefore amounted to R2848 million as against R1625 million in 1978. Taxation and State's share of profits almost doubled to R1703 million, leaving distributable profits of R1145 million, a 66 per cent increase on the 1978 figure of R688 million. Of this, dividends declared absorbed R963 million, being 76 per cent more than in the previous year.

Anglo's investment income rose by 80.0 per cent, to R133.9 million from R74.4 million last year which included receipt of a third dividend from Gold Fields of South Africa Limited amounting to R1.2 million during that thirteen month period. Interest earned increased from R0.8 million to R1.3 million but there was no underwriting commission (1978: R0.2 million) and the surplus on realisation of investments declined from R1.6 million to R0.1 million. Administration, prospecting, interest and other charges fell from R5.0 million to R4.7 million.

Pre-tax profit at R130.6 million was 81.6 per cent higher than last year and there was no provision for taxation. After deduction of preference dividends equity earnings were R127.9 million or 582.8 cents a share, of which R115.2 million, or 525 cents a share, was distributed in the form of ordinary dividends. Retained earnings amounted to R12.7 million compared with R14.9 million in 1979.

Gold

The spectacular rise in the gold price was virtually uninterrupted between May 1979, when a short period of consolidation ended, and January 1980. The London market price broke through \$300 in July and the \$400 level was attained at the beginning of October. After a brief reaction, the \$500 barrier was quickly breached by the end of 1979 and the price continued to rise in unprecedented fashion to \$850 on January 21. It fell by more than \$208 in the following few days and then fluctuated, at times widely, in the \$600 - \$700 range until early March. By then, however, the increase in interest rates in the United States to levels beyond those anticipated as necessary to curb excessive credit demand was sufficient to spur a widespread movement from commodities to dollar financial assets, despite continuing economic and other uncertainties. The gold price fell subsequently to the \$500 level by March 14 and, in the wake of President Carter's announcement on that day that fiscal and other restrictive measures were to be introduced, declined to reach \$474 on March 18 1980. It soon recovered, partly in reaction to the announcement that South Africa would not have to sell its entire gold production, and over the past few weeks has fluctuated around \$500.

In considering the period to the end of February 1980, a remarkable feature which has characterised the gold market since December 1978 is the fact that the price increase was expressed almost uniformly in other major currencies, as well as the dollar, with the price in yen terms rising to the greatest extent. By contrast, in 1978, when the dollar price rose strongly, the price in terms of Deutschmarks increased only moderately and that in Swiss francs and Japanese yen not at all.

These patterns reflect a fundamental change in the structure of the market that had emerged by late 1978 and which had a profound influence during the past year, namely, the growing propensity for diversification, not only from dollar-denominated assets but also paper currencies in general.

Overriding doubts about the United States' ability to subdue inflation and the consequent effect that continued disarray in the world monetary system would have on international money supplies, given the already intractable political situation in the Middle East, imparted a new momentum to this trend. More specifically, after some relative stability in the gold price in the early months of 1978, associated to a degree with a recovery of dollar strength, the inescapable implications of the Opec oil price increases caused the gold price to regain its upward momentum. Uncertainties, compounded by the renewed weakness of the dollar, were allayed only temporarily by the Volcker restrictive monetary package in October. Subsequent events in Iran,

and then Afghanistan, appeared to reinforce the conviction that gold is the indisputable store of wealth in a precarious world situation.

In this environment speculative activity was bound to accelerate. Indeed, in the United States the increased interest in gold last year was expressed largely through the forward market and record volumes in gold futures were recorded on the New York and Chicago commodity exchanges. The extraordinary fluctuations in prices early this year have been associated with similar marked variations in the extent of open positions in these and in the Far Eastern markets, whose activities have also broadened considerably.

These developments combined to influence the demand and supply profile for gold in 1979. Preliminary indications are that the higher prices had an appreciable effect on gold consumption in the form of jewellery, particularly over the turn of the year, when a significant amount of hoarding from the Middle East took place, and, to a lesser extent on industrial usage. Net oftake of official coins rose by 10 per cent, the 18 per cent decline in Kruggerand sales from the record six million coins in 1978 being more than offset by increased sales of other coins, including the new Canadian Maple Leaf. Supplies of bullion to the market in 1979 were approximately the same as in the previous year. New production in the West rose slightly but the most noticeable feature was a significant reduction in the sales of Soviet gold: the balance was made up from the IMF and by increased sales at US Treasury auctions. Given the supply situation, and in the light of the reported reduction in the total demand for fabrication, it has been estimated that net private purchases for investment and speculative purposes probably more than doubled in 1979 to approximate the 1974 level.

In assessing the outlook for the gold market in 1980, the impact on fabrication demand of dollar and other prices, currently still far above those prevailing throughout 1979, cannot be ignored. The sensitivity of demand to high prices is readily apparent, but the relationship is complex. When the price rose above \$400 last year, most experts believed that the increase would have a definite impact on consumption and that it would fall, but not by as much as it did in 1973 and 1974. Despite recent fluctuations, and especially in light of recessionary prospects, this view cannot be disputed and implies the need for corresponding gains in the investment area if supplies at 1979 levels are to be absorbed at around current prices.

However, while investment and speculative demands are volatile, the supply position cannot be taken for granted. The reduction in gold sales to the open market from Communist sources is an intriguing factor, the four-year programme of IMF auctions is nearly complete and no US Treasury sales have been held since last November. The debate now surrounding the possible role of gold in the proposed Substitution Account, which is to be discussed in Hamburg by the Interim Committee of the IMF on April 24, and other suggestions, which include central bank intervention or a resumption of convertibility for foreign officially-held dollar balances, confirm one outstanding result of recent events: the re-emergence of gold as the single most important component of international reserves.

It is not surprising that with this singular vested interest European central banks should have resisted attempts last year to persuade them to part with gold to dampen the price, or that prevailing attitudes in the US government and at the IMF, although still ambivalent, are considerably less negative than in past years. There can be no doubt that gold has been effectively re-monetised; its role as a basis for international debt settlement, financing of trade deficits, security for official borrowing, expansion of the European Monetary System, new IMF schemes and in the financing of Opec-induced payments deficits has assumed noteworthy proportions. In the long term therefore, the perceived advantages of gold as a politically neutral and secure asset are bound to gain further ground.

Undoubtedly, the present situation is fluid, and there is no way of predicting how long it will be before interest rates in the United States reach a turning point or what course the IMF, the US government or central banks generally will pursue insofar as their gold stocks are concerned. Certainly, the US authorities have proclaimed their intention of retaining flexibility in this regard as part of their anti-inflationary policy. Nevertheless, the underlying strength of demand is testimony to an awareness of the obstacles to restoring a proper balance in the American economy, although President Carter's recently announced package must be recognised as a major effort in this direction. However, other factors include difficulties envisaged in the required recycling of enlarged Opec surpluses, the economic implications of higher defence spending in the West and potential instability generally. I believe that there are sufficient interrelated and compensating elements in the intricate equation of supply and demand to ensure a relatively strong market for gold in the year ahead.

Mining operations

Commendable efforts have been made by mine managements in containing the increase in working costs to 11 per cent, a ton particularly as there has been a tendency in the past for working costs to increase significantly following a sharp rise in the gold price. This has not occurred in the year under review even though overall costs of wages, materials and stores, including fuel and steel, increased steadily.

It will however be difficult to maintain this lower level of increase in the face of the projected rates of escalation of these items. Despite the higher gold price, it remains of great importance in a country in the grip of inflation to keep wage increases at a level which will not add to the inflationary spiral. On the other hand, wages of black employees, despite the considerable improvements made in the 1970s, remain substantially behind those being paid for similar jobs in secondary industry and commerce. It is not defensible that mine employees, particularly those working underground in a rich industry, should lag behind other industrial workers and the least that must happen is that the industry should continue, as it has done over the past several years, to give greater percentage increases in wages to

its black workers than to its white employees. In fact there is a powerful argument in the present circumstances of high gold prices, for accelerating this process so that black wages are brought more into line and the gap between white and black wages is closed more rapidly with a view to achieving a unified wage curve, as several other industries have done.

The shortage of skills in the mining industry and in the country generally has been a matter of anxiety for some time and now that the economy is showing distinct signs of growth it has become an immediate problem. Inter alia, while difficult to quantify, it has already made an impact on the costs of existing operations. It is estimated that the current shortage of skilled officials and union employees in the industry numbers some 1,040 people, of whom 400 are artisans and 260 certificated miners. Furthermore, from past experience, it is accepted that labour mobility increases in times of an economic upturn. This does not augur well for the supply of skilled labour to existing operations, let alone to new operations resulting from the higher gold price.

Considerable expenditure on off- and on-the-job training programmes, and the employment and stabilisation of a more sophisticated labour force are areas receiving urgent attention. Such an effort can only really be justified if undertaken within a labour structure which enables all individuals to use their skills to maximum potential. Forward planning of the development of the labour force is imperative in a new environment where there will be equal opportunities, equal pay for equal work of equal value, and the right to trade unionism for all.

In this regard the publication of the Wiehahn and Riekert reports on industrial relations and labour mobility was a major development in the South African labour field. The government adopted a cautious attitude towards the Commission's recommendations particularly in regard to the admission of blacks to mixed trade unions. Fortunately there are indications that the government may move in this direction, but a clearer indication of the timing of the implementation of all the recommendations is necessary for the effective utilisation of human resources. Fundamental to this are the remaining matters to be considered by the Wiehahn Commission which is devoting its next report to the mining industry.

New developments and exploration

I mentioned in my last review that it had been many years since the mining industry had seen as many as four new mines being developed concurrently, those being Elandsrand, Deelkraal, Unisel and Beisa. This trend has continued during the year with a number of announcements on new and possible projects.

Union Corporation Limited announced in December that a drilling programme on ground to the south of Beisa, held under option by its subsidiary, Beatrix Mines Limited, had delineated a potential gold mine of medium to low-grade ore.

Subject to negotiations with Western Ultra Deep Levels Limited, a new shaft system is to be developed in the southern portion of the Western Deep Levels' present lease area.

A preliminary feasibility study of the area west and south of The South African Land & Exploration Company Limited's previous mine workings, and centred on the old No. 5 shaft of Van Dyk Consolidated Mines Limited, has delineated a potential gold mine area.

Doomfontein Gold Mining Company Limited has made application for a new lease formula to incorporate the area to the south of its present lease and the life of the mine could be significantly extended. Progress on other new developments has been satisfactory.

The tempo of gold exploration was increased considerably during the year and will escalate further in the coming year.

Conclusion

The very substantial increase in the gold price has given rise to further examination of the expansion prospects of the industry. Even at prices significantly below the current levels, possibilities exist for development of orebodies which have not previously been viable and the new stage of the development of the industry in South Africa, which began with Elandsrand, Deelkraal, Unisel and Beisa, has continued during the year with expansion at existing mines.

The increased gold price has not been met by an acceleration in the rate of inflation in working costs. Clearly the challenge to the industry, to maintain the strictest possible control over working costs, remains, and is perhaps even stronger now, in the light of rising rates of inflation worldwide, than it was a year ago.

It is against a background of inflation and of widespread political uncertainties that the gold price must be viewed. Preliminary estimates suggest that net tonnage purchased privately in 1979 was about the same as in 1974, although this did not represent such a high proportion of the demand for gold. The average gold price for the year to date is \$621.84, and the price at the time of writing \$532.00, both substantially higher than last year's average of \$307.14. The maintenance of this level of price is clearly dependent on future supplies, the degree to which industrial demand proves sensitive to price and on the continuation of the political and economic factors which lead to investment and speculative demand. However, gold has again established a monetary role and its position as a long term store of wealth can rarely be more widely recognised.

Your company holds a portfolio of good quality gold and uranium mine shares as well as participating in interesting new prospects and I am confident that it will benefit from the expansion of production by both existing and new producers.

The Annual General Meeting of this Company will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on June 4, 1980. Copies of the annual report may be obtained from the London Office at 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ or from the office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries, Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

Valter Lawrence Limited

Preliminary Announcement

	18 months to 31st Dec. 1979*	12 months to 30th June 1978
Turnover	75,081	39,841
Operating profit	3,138	1,496
Interest	923	365
Profit before taxation	2,215	1,131
Profit after taxation	1,489	562
Earnings per share - as stated	27.8p	—
Earnings per share - annualised	18.5p	10.1p
Dividends paid and proposed	10.5p	5.84p

*From 1979 accounts are prepared to 31st December each year

Record profits when 18-month figures converted to annualised basis - despite significantly higher interest charge.

Gross dividends increased by 15 per cent on an annualised basis.

CONSTRUCTION • PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
MANUFACTURING • ENGINEERING

Lawrence House, Sun Street, Sawbridgeworth,
Hertfordshire, CM21 9LX

Watmoughs (Holdings) Limited

Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 8NL

Continued growth £1.5 million profit

for the year ended 31 December 1979

	1979	1978	Increase
Turnover	£13 065 229	£10 451 296	25%
Profit before tax	£1 504 257	£1 104 469	36%
Earnings per share	28.20p	21.54p	31%

1980 Outlook. Increased capacity available from installation of new equipment. Three new magazine contracts and additional mail order printing obtained. Year of further progress expected.

Bravure and litho printers Carton manufacturers

FINANCIAL NEWS

Modest advance at Borg-Warner

By Michael Transport

Borg-Warner Corporation has reported a modest increase in earnings and sales for the first quarter of 1980.

Mr James F. Beré, the chairman, told the annual meeting in Chicago that first quarter earnings were \$35.9m or \$1.68 a share, compared with \$33.2m or \$1.65 a share, a year ago. Sales for the quarter were \$680m, up from \$631m a year ago.

Mr Beré said the company's increase in sales and earnings in the face of difficult market conditions was attributable to a strong improvement in its service-related businesses and continuing strength in chemicals and plastics.

"Borg-Warner has enjoyed 19 consecutive quarters of improved results," Mr Beré said. "Maintaining this string of improvements will be a difficult challenge, especially in the second quarter which last year was the strongest three-month period Borg-Warner ever had."

International

Consolidated net income was \$393.7m, compared with \$310.5m in 1979.

The 1980 results do not reflect the 5 per cent surtax announced on April 21. A preliminary assessment of the effect of this surtax on the consolidated earnings indicates that taxes would increase by about \$35m or 2 cents a share.

Sohio income soars

Standard Oil of Ohio reported net income for the first quarter of 1980 of \$450.7m, an increase of 169 per cent on last year. Earnings a share jumped to \$3.67 from \$1.39.

As part of the planned \$1,000m capital expenditure during 1980, construction of two drilling rigs for exploration activities on the company's Seaford Sea leases was started in the first quarter with drilling scheduled for the late fourth quarter.

Montefibre

Montefibre, a synthetic fibres subsidiary of Montedison of Italy, reduced losses in 1979 to \$6.500m (lire £43m) from \$9.300m (lire £57m) in 1978. Turnover rose to \$23,300m (lire £143,800m).

The company is waiting for government approval for a \$26,000m lire financial rescue plan.

Zapata profits up

Zapata Corp has reported net income of \$18.3m for the six months to March 31, up sharply from \$10.8m a year earlier.

The company reported net income per share of \$1.93, compared with \$1.19 in the 1979 period. Revenues were \$292m, against \$242m in 1979.

Sale of stores by Kitchen Queen

By Philip Robinson

Kitchen Queen, the furniture to carpets group whose chairman resigned earlier this year as it forecast a six-month loss, is trying to sell some of its 47 stores.

It is understood that the move is part of a rationalization plan by the new chairman Mr Len Morris, who took over from Mr Neville Johnson—the man who started the business, brought it to market 18 months ago and resigned mid-January selling a major slice of his shares.

Mr Morris was unavailable for comment last night, but it is believed he wants to prune some of the 44 stores which came when Kitchen Queen paid £2.1m for furniture group Knott Mill a year ago.

The company's new brokers, Pannure Gordon, have cancelled a seminar with KQ's institutional shareholders, due to be held yesterday, because an accountants report on the company—where Price Waterhouse were appointed joint accountants at the end of February—was not ready.

A spokesman for the stockbrokers said: "We had planned to hold a meeting to tell the institutional shareholders exactly what the financial position of the company is. But the report is not ready yet. It should be finished in a couple of weeks."

The accountants' report should include the group's half time figures for the six months ending February.

According to the company's statement last January, there will be a group loss of £300,000.

The Mober subsidiary, which Kitchen Queen bought in a £5m deal last November is expected to produce a £1.2m profit compared with a forecast made at the time of the acquisition of £1.5m for the whole year. Losses on the group's manufacturing division in the first half have been estimated at £1.1m and on retailing at £400,000.

Smiths Industries' £5m bid

Smiths Industries is to pay £4.9m for Eeco Mfg, an unlisted Australian company which makes and sells door furniture, such as locks, latches, handles, knobs and associated equipment to architects and to the building industry. It has a factory in Sydney, and distribution branches in all the major Australian states.

The assets of Eeco as at June 30 were £1.5m. Profits for the period amounted to £1,006m on sales of £3.45m.

The purchase price will be satisfied partly in cash, and partly by the issue of 237 new ordinary shares of Smiths. These shares will not rank for the interim dividend for the 1979-80 period. The ordinary shares have been placed on behalf of the vendors.

ENis & Holdstein slips to £1.65m

Turnover at Ellis & Goldstein (Holdings) for the year to January 31 rose from £35.6m to £40.9m. Pre tax profits were just £1.65m against £1.82m. The dividend is 3.2p gross against 3.2p.

At present spring 1980 retail sales are ahead of last year, and will be assisted by the gradual reestablishment throughout the year of the shop-within-stores units in Debenhams. The autumn collections are being shown against the background of continuing inflation, high interest rates and understandable caution by our retail customers, board says.

The directors are to recommend that the 5p shares be written up to 15p shares.

Walter Lawrence reaches £2.2m

Taxable profits of Walter Lawrence, an industrial holding company, reached £2.2m over the 18 months to December 31, compared with £1.13m for the previous 12 months. This was achieved on turnover of £75m against £39.8m.

The board says that profits and turnover were ahead everywhere, except at Walaw Plant Hire, where a substantial loss was incurred. This company has been restructured, and an

improvement is expected. Annualised earnings a share are 18.5p against 18.1p, and the dividend is 15p against 8.85p gross.

British Asset Trust profits up £1m

British Assets Trust's income for the half year to March 31 rose to £3.8m from £2.7m a year earlier. Pretax profits were £1m higher at £2.94m.

Earnings a share were 1.86p against 1.12p and net asset value a share was 91.1p compared with 100.1p.

As a result of an increase in the quarterly dividend, the total payout for the year will amount to 5.21p gross, against 4.43p gross the year before.

Hopkings Ho'dings

Because of an industrial dispute at a subsidiary, audited group accounts for Hopkings Holdings for the year to February 1 are not yet available.

However, the board expects that trading profit will not be significantly less than in 1978-79, although an increase in net interest payable will cause a further reduction at the pretax level.

The board has decided to pay a second interim dividend of 5.9p gross, making 8.07 gross. It is not expected that a final will be recommended.

Turner and Newall

Mr Stephen Gibbs, chairman of Turner and Newall, told the annual meeting that 1980 had started slightly better than 1979, although further action would have to be taken to reduce financing charges and restore adequate levels of United Kingdom profitability.

Noting that the company's position overseas was very much healthier, he said that the board felt sufficiently confident to consolidate the assets and earnings of the Zimbabwe subsidiaries into the group accounts this year.

Anchor Chemical moves ahead

Anchor Chemical reports a turnover for 1979 at £14.07m compared with £11.35m and pre-

tax profits up from £422,000 to £74,000. Tax took £248,000 against £178,000, leaving attributable profits of £492,000 against £259,000.

Earnings a share rose from 9p to 17.7p.

Shareholders are to collect a total dividend of 7.57p gross against 6.86p.

Mr H. K. Just, chairman, says that the group's organization should enable it to deal effectively with the forecast recession.

Pentland Industries tops £1m mark

Profits of Pentland Industries have exceeded £1m for the first time. The 1979 profit compares with £813,000 for 1978, and was achieved on turnover of £25.8m against £18.2m.

Earnings a share went up from 5.8p to 7.5p. The dividend is 1.8p against 1.26p gross.

The 27 per cent increase in trading profits has been achieved despite the sale of a former 51 per cent subsidiary, Union Food, which contributed £186,000 to group profits in 1978 before tax and minority interest.

The board therefore feels that the real growth rate during 1979 was far more substantial than 27 per cent.

The first quarter of the current year shows "satisfactory growth".

Sheffield Twist drill up 14pc

With turnover rising from £25.9m to £27.6m for 1979, Sheffield Twist Drill & Steel managed a 14 per cent increase in pretax profits to £1.28m.

The dividend is 3.17p gross against 3.03p.

A change in accounting policy for deferred tax resulted in a credit of £1.4m against £1.13m which has been treated as a prior-year adjustment.

The board says that the results were adversely affected by a loss of production because of bad weather conditions, and the national haulage dispute in the first quarter followed by the national engineering dispute in the third quarter.

McKechie Brothers up 27pc at half year

By Our Financial Staff

Non-ferrous metal group McKechie Brothers shrugged off the worst effects of the engineering strike in the half year to January 31. Profits rose by 27.6 per cent on sales up by 23.2 per cent, though the interim dividend was unchanged.

The profits figure was £2.74m against £2.16m while sales were up from £55.3m to £68.2m. The last full year produced profits of £15.1m on sales of £121.1m.

At the operating level, before the metal account, the profits were up from £5.4m to £6.4m after charging depreciation of £1.56m against £1.48m last time. Associates contributed £2.8m against £1.6m.

Harold Perry up 31pc

By Our Financial Staff

Ford main dealer Harold Perry Motors turned in a 31 per cent profit increase in 1979 on sales up by 32 per cent. The profits figure was up from £3.76m to £4.93m and sales rose from £87.6m to £115.3m.

Profits from new cars were 35 per cent up on sales 23.7 per cent higher while commercial vehicles were 54 per cent higher on sales of 25.4 per cent more units. Other trading activities, including petrol, replacement parts and industrial equipment, produced 33 per cent of total group operating profit.

In the first quarter of this year profits of £1.36m represented an 11 per cent decline from last year's level, despite higher volume sales. Profits from commercial vehicles, however, were up 37 per cent.

The board is proposing a one-for-one scrip issue. The final dividend is 5.7p gross, making a total for the year of 10p. The shares fell 8p yesterday to 147p where they yield 6.8 per cent and sell at four times stated earnings of 37p per share.

The appreciation on metal stocks, not covered by the McKechie Brothers' share price, comes to £169.0 after tax.

Mr Cecil Taylor, the chairman, describes the performance as satisfactory and he estimates the loss of potential trading profits from the engineering strike at £500,000.

He adds that all geographic areas showed "useful improvement" with the revival in a South African economy, a good conditions in New Zealand, being especially useful.

The interim dividend is unchanged, 2.86p gross. Shares rose 3p to 102p yesterday to yield a historic 9.7 per cent.

Bank Base Rates

Bank of England	17.75
Barclays Bank	17.75
BCCI Bank	17.75
Consolidated Credits	17.75
HSBC Bank	17.75
London-Mercantile	17.75
Midland Bank	17.75
Nat Westminister	17.75
Ramsden	17.75
TSB	17.75
Williams and Glyn's	17.75

* See separate page for details of bank rates and overdraft rates.

The planes

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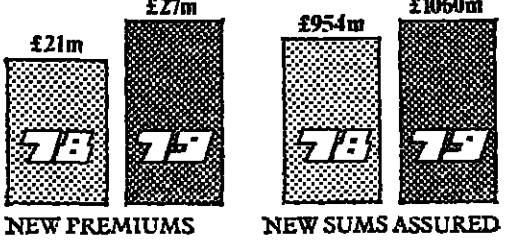
Highlights from the 1979 statement by Edwin W. Phillips, MBE, Chairman of Friends' Provident

Friends' Provident announces record bonuses

"I am pleased to declare bonuses at record levels on all classes of with profit contracts in the U.K. and Republic of Ireland."

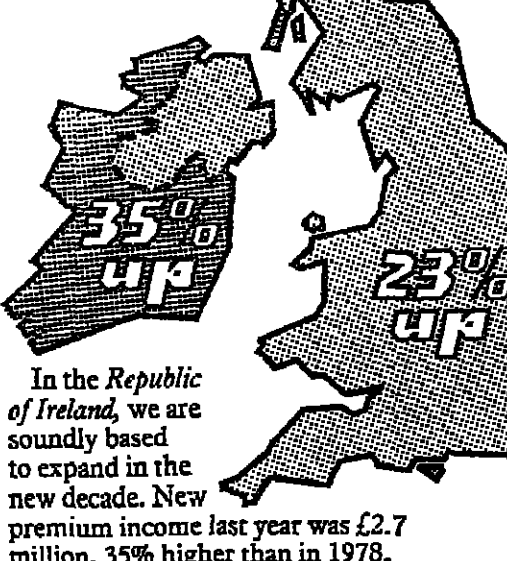
Trading results show significant advances...

Overall new contracts produced annual premiums of £27 million, an increase of 28% over the previous year. The new sums assured under these contracts were in excess of £1 billion for the first time.



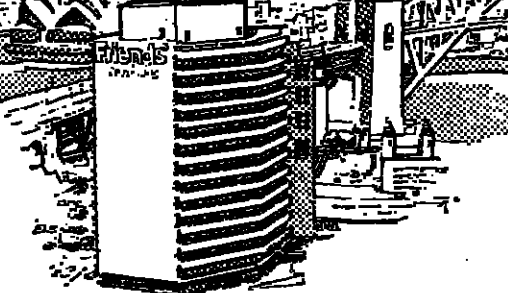
on the home market...

In the U.K., new premium income was £3.7 million higher than in 1978. In September, we introduced a new with profits policy Multidowment, which quickly proved popular and is already rivaling Maxidowment as our best-selling individual contract.



In the Republic of Ireland, we are soundly based to expand in the new decade. New premium income last year was £2.7 million, 35% higher than in 1978.

Our Canadian company, Fidelity Life, is also moving into a period of growth from its present stable, but still small, base. In Australia, following the consolidation of our original business with the funds we took over recently, we are now able to embark on an ambitious programme for substantial growth.



Friends' Provident building in Sydney.

Investments approach £1 billion...

Our continued growth was reflected in the market value of all our investments which are fast approaching £1 billion. The world-wide yield on the average funds increased from 10.84% for 1978 to 11.42% for 1979.

Our property side has had an extremely busy year, tidying up the Land and House portfolio, pruning secondary properties and establishing a new link with Frincon Holdings Limited.

Our Managed Pension Fund has had a good second year, virtually doubling in size to £24 million. We have recently commenced an Individual Managed Fund to extend similar investment advantages to executives and directors of smaller companies.



We are well into our second four-year development of advanced computer systems. A larger computer, colour display and printing on our terminals throughout the U.K. and Republic of Ireland will help our staff and their presentation to the public, and maintain our lead in service to all policyholders.

The Future...

We believe in the value we can give through protection and savings, and in the exceptional service provided by our staff. I wish to thank most sincerely those who have served us world-wide for the success achieved during an exceptionally difficult period.

We look forward to the 1980s with genuine confidence and feel justified in planning for real expansion.

To: Company Secretary, Friends' Provident Life Office, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA. Please send a copy of the 1979 Annual Report to:

Name _____
Address _____

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT

Friends' Provident Life Office, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA. Telephone: Dorking (0306) 5055 and 24 branch offices. Founded 1832. Incorporated by Act of Parliament. Sums assured in UK exceed £2,000m.

Commodities

WOOL.—Greasy futures 4 pence per kilo.—Australia (quips),—Mkt. 26-10-89; July Oct. Dec., March May 26½ 27 27½ 28 28½ 29 29½ 30 30½ 31 31½ 32 32½ 33 33½ 34 34½ 35 35½ 36 36½ 37 37½ 38 38½ 39 39½ 40 40½ 41 41½ 42 42½ 43 43½ 44 44½ 45 45½ 46 46½ 47 47½ 48 48½ 49 49½ 50 50½ 51 51½ 52 52½ 53 53½ 54 54½ 55 55½ 56 56½ 57 57½ 58 58½ 59 59½ 60 60½ 61 61½ 62 62½ 63 63½ 64 64½ 65 65½ 66 66½ 67 67½ 68 68½ 69 69½ 70 70½ 71 71½ 72 72½ 73 73½ 74 74½ 75 75½ 76 76½ 77 77½ 78 78½ 79 79½ 80 80½ 81 81½ 82 82½ 83 83½ 84 84½ 85 85½ 86 86½ 87 87½ 88 88½ 89 89½ 90 90½ 91 91½ 92 92½ 93 93½ 94 94½ 95 95½ 96 96½ 97 97½ 98 98½ 99 99½ 100 100½ 101 101½ 102 102½ 103 103½ 104 104½ 105 105½ 106 106½ 107 107½ 108 108½ 109 109½ 110 110½ 111 111½ 112 112½ 113 113½ 114 114½ 115 115½ 116 116½ 117 117½ 118 118½ 119 119½ 120 120½ 121 121½ 122 122½ 123 123½ 124 124½ 125 125½ 126 126½ 127 127½ 128 128½ 129 129½ 130 130½ 131 131½ 132 132½ 133 133½ 134 134½ 135 135½ 136 136½ 137 137½ 138 138½ 139 139½ 140 140½ 141 141½ 142 142½ 143 143½ 144 144½ 145 145½ 146 146½ 147 147½ 148 148½ 149 149½ 150 150½ 151 151½ 152 152½ 153 153½ 154 154½ 155 155½ 156 156½ 157 157½ 158 158½ 159 159½ 160 160½ 161 161½ 162 162½ 163 163½ 164 164½ 165 165½ 166 166½ 167 167½ 168 168½ 169 169½ 170 170½ 171 171½ 172 172½ 173 173½ 174 174½ 175 175½ 176 176½ 177 177½ 178 178½ 179 179½ 180 180½ 181 181½ 182 182½ 183 183½ 184 184½ 185 185½ 186 186½ 187 187½ 188 188½ 189 189½ 190 190½ 191 191½ 192 192½ 193 193½ 194 194½ 195 195½ 196 196½ 197 197½ 198 198½ 199 199½ 200 200½ 201 201½ 202 202½ 203 203½ 204 204½ 205 205½ 206 206½ 207 207½ 208 208½ 209 209½ 210 210½ 211 211½ 212 212½ 213 213½ 214 214½ 215 215½ 216 216½ 217 217½ 218 218½ 219 219½ 220 220½ 221 221½ 222 222½ 223 223½ 224 224½ 225 225½ 226 226½ 227 227½ 228 228½ 229 229½ 230 230½ 231 231½ 232 232½ 233 233½ 234 234½ 235 235½ 236 236½ 237 237½ 238 238½ 239 239½ 240 240½ 241 241½ 242 242½ 243 243½ 244 244½ 245 245½ 246 246½ 247 247½ 248 248½ 249 249½ 250 250½ 251 251½ 252 252½ 253 253½ 254 254½ 255 255½ 256 256½ 257 257½ 258 258½ 259 259½ 260 260½ 261 261½ 262 262½ 263 263½ 264 264½ 265 265½ 266 266½ 267 267½ 268 268½ 269 269½ 270 270½ 271 271½ 272 272½ 273 273½ 274 274½ 275 275½ 276 276½ 277 277½ 278 278½ 279 279½ 280 280½ 281 281½ 282 282½ 283 283½ 284 284½ 285 285½ 286 286½ 287 287½ 288 288½ 289 289½ 290 290½ 291 291½ 292 292½ 293 293½ 294 294½ 295 295½ 296 296½ 297 297½ 298 298½ 299 299½ 300 300½ 301 301½ 302 302½ 303 303½ 304 304½ 305 305½ 306 306½ 307 307½ 308 308½ 309 309½ 310 310½ 311 311½ 312 312½ 313 313½ 314 314½ 315 315½ 316 316½ 317 317½ 318 318½ 319 319½ 320 320½ 321 321½ 322 322½ 323 323½ 324 324½ 325 325½ 326 326½ 327 327½ 328 328½ 329 329½ 330 330½ 331 331½ 332 332½ 333 333½ 334 334½ 335 335½ 336 336½ 337 337½ 338 338½ 339 339½ 340 340½ 341 341½ 342 342½ 343 343½ 344 344½ 345 345½ 346 346½ 347 347½ 348 348½ 349 349½ 350 350½ 351 351½ 352 352½ 353 353½ 354 354½ 355 355½ 356 356½ 357 357½ 358 358½ 359 359½ 360 360½ 361 361½ 362 362½ 363 363½ 364 364½ 365 365½ 366 366½ 367 367½ 368 368½ 369 369½ 370 370½ 371 371½ 372 372½ 373 373½ 374 374½ 375 375½ 376 376½ 377 377½ 378 378½ 379 379½ 380 380½ 381 381½ 382 382½ 383 383½ 384 384½ 385 385½ 386 386½ 387 387½ 388 388½ 389 389½ 390 390½ 391 391½ 392 392½ 393 393½ 394 394½ 395 395½ 396 396½ 397 397½ 398 398½ 399 399½ 400 400½ 401 401½ 402 402½ 403 403½ 404 404½ 405 405½ 406 406½ 407 407½ 408 408½ 409 409½ 410 410½ 411 411½ 412 412½ 413 413½ 414 414½ 415 415½ 416 416½ 417 417½ 418 418½ 419 419½ 420 420½ 421 421½ 422 422½ 423 423½ 424 424½ 425 425½ 426 426½ 427 427½ 428 428½ 429 429½ 430 430½ 431 431½ 432 432½ 433 433½ 434 434½ 435 435½ 436 436½ 437 437½ 438 438½ 439 439½ 440 440½ 441 441½ 442 442½ 443 443½ 444 444½ 445 445½ 446 446½ 447 447½ 448 448½ 449 449½ 450 450½ 451 451½ 452 452½ 453 453½ 454 454½ 455 455½ 456 456½ 457 457½ 458 458½ 459 459½ 460 460½ 461 461½ 462 462½ 463 463½ 464 464½ 465 465½ 466 466½ 467 467½ 468 468½ 469 469½ 470 470½ 471 471½ 472 472½ 473 473½ 474 474½ 475 475½ 476 476½ 477 477½ 478 478½ 479 479½ 480 480½ 481 481½ 482 482½ 483 483½ 484 484½ 485 485½ 486 486½ 487 487½ 488 488½ 489 489½ 490 490½ 491 491½ 492 49

ICFC enters contest for Drilling Tools

ICFC, the venture capital institution backed by the clearing bank of the Bank of England, has launched a contest for Drilling Tools North Sea worth £27.23m or £6.50 a "B" ordinary share.

The new offer, which is recommended by DTNS board, shares with a £6.10 a share offer by the Hambros Bank on behalf of the National Coal Board Pension Fund and unnamed clients.

Under the terms of the ICFC offer which is to be made by a "shell" company, Plumcloud, DTNS shareholders will be able to acquire an undiluted stake in the North Sea group by opting for a share exchange.

Hambros recently bought a 35 per cent stake in DTNS, which is chaired by Mr Charles Noble, from an American group.

Plumcloud has bought a 12.4 per cent stake for £6.50 a share and has received irrevocable undertakings from holders of a further 20.82 per cent.

Mr Noble, who brought the group together in 1972, is a partner in stockbrokers Hedderwick Stirling.

Foreign exchange report

The dollar closed only marginally lower on foreign exchanges yesterday, thanks to the efforts of the central banks.

Falling short-term United States interest rates and continuing concern about the dollar helped push it lower at the outset, but, by the close, much of the lost ground had been regained. Sterling opened with a show of strength against the dollar, but fell to a low before settling developed.

East on fears of oil price moves against Britain against the dollar by one time, but the pound fell to 233.50 points. The "effective" rate index finished at 73.3, after dipping to 72.5 during the opening.

Dollar Sp Rates

- Ireland
- Canada
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Denmark
- New Germany
- Portugal

Sterling: Other Markets

Australien	20 815
Nahrein	20 775
Finnland	20 615
Ungarn	20 775
Frankreich	21 255

Spain
Italy
Norway
France
Sweden
Japan
Austria

* Ireland quoted in US report
† Canada \$1 US\$0.8455

Wall Street

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table relate to Tuesday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Silver in \$1.03 gain

N. w York, April 24.—SILVER.—Spot April rose \$1.03 to \$14.67 an ounce on speculative buying spurred by published reports of a multi-million dollar bank loan to the Hunt brothers to finance their silver market position.

old

Gold fixed am \$514.25; an ounce per
oz. = \$222.50
Krugerrand 1 per color \$537.547; 1/2 oz.
sovereign new: \$132.50-137.00; 1/10 oz.

Euro-\$ Deposits

Call, 16-17; seven days, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$; one month, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$; three months, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$; six months, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Options

The unsettled conditions over the rest of the market moved into traded options yesterday as total contracts dropped from 1,538 to 329. The introduction of the new Japanese options failed to spark interest although Shell, U

benefited from the introduction of some extent.

Calls were produced by favourites such as Courtauld, Courtho, Grattan Wareham and European Ferries and arranged in F.N.F.C. "Doubles" were also played in MFI, BSG International and Turmah.

ICFC enters contest for Drilling Tools

ICFC, the venture capital institution backed by the clearing banks and the Bank of England, has launched a counterbid for Drilling Tools North Sea worth £2.23m or £6.50 a "B" ordinary share.

The new offer, which is recommended by DTNS board, compares with a £6.10 a share offer last year.

Under the terms of the JCFP offer which is to be made by a "shell" company, Plumtree, which is a subsidiary of the Coal Board Pension Fund and unnamed clients, will be able to retain an undiluted stake in the North Sea group by opting for a share exchange.

Hambros recently bought a 35 per cent stake in DINS, which was chaired by a shareholder from an American group.

Plumtree has bought a 12.4 per cent stake at £6.50 a share and has received irrevocable undertakings from holders of 100 shares at £8.25 a share.

Mr Noble, who brought the group together in 1972, is a partner in stockbrokers Hedderwick Stirling.

Recent Issues

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Authorized units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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By Michael Transport British sive and unless the to more g a Peter Parli- his air railways by year in ment's can doing the death was "The f Rail is t our financ short of bility." E meaning c Improved c been bet financial be forced parding Sir Pe pamp poners for the Minis said in a question that he Rail would "exceed i limits." E European; was no ing taxa In a sector, freight made c before co 1978. I will be charges compare \$6.4m. 7 \$530m. i for. The l Govern limit o houses t It also i

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Hopeful note in those grim statistics

of the Institute of Road Safety Officers' statement: "Even national newspapers find it fashionable to conduct campaigns against this particular group of road user. But often their so-called facts and figures can be misleading.

"No one can deny that the motorcyclist is vulnerable and that the machine is a dangerous weapon in machine control and learn about defensive riding; likewise to invest in some reflective/fluorescent gear to aid conspicuity.

"However, the hard fact remains that some surveys suggest that in 70 per cent of accidents involving motorcyclists the driver is not to blame. Perhaps it is about time more emphasis was placed on this and more time spent educating the 'blinkered' motorist."

The 70 per cent figure, taken from a police survey, seems very high, particularly as, according to the Department of Transport, 90 per cent of accidents involving motorcyclists do not involve another vehicle. But of course Mr Dean is right in stressing that motor cyclists are by no means always the culprits.

What is probably true is that a large proportion of two-wheeled machines are ridden by youngsters—half the casualties are teenagers—and insurance makes them less able to avoid trouble. They are therefore likely to be involved in accidents that with more experience of road conditions and of handling a machine they might avoid.

There is Mr Dean's reference



to vulnerability. Crash helmets notwithstanding, two-wheeler riders have little protection against an impact and their injuries are bound to be more severe. A car driver on the other hand, is protected by the structure of metal but in a head-on collision he will have the length of the bonnet between him and the point of impact. Which means that he can escape unscathed from a serious incident in which a motorist would be killed.

The real reason why motor cycles and their riders have a poor image is that they tend to be associated in the public mind with irresponsible and irresponsible motorists on showing off than on being responsible road users. Undoubtedly this element exists, only to spoil things for the majority of two-wheeler riders who are responsible.

Certainly there seems to be little

serious opposition in the two-wheeler world to the sort of safety measures the Government is considering—the restriction of licensed motorcycles to 100 km per hour, the step bikes currently permitted and the step to the practice of driving indefinitely on provisional licences.

There are irresponsible car drivers as well: perhaps the majority of cyclists should consider themselves as such. It is obvious that brings us to the question of noise. Last week the Government published a consultation paper on vehicle noise, pointing out that noisy motorcycles are a major source of noise. They are the principal targets of public complaint and suggesting that the maximum permitted noise should be halved within 10 years.

I will declare no prejudice. One of my favourite sounds is a rascous motorcycle, particularly

when it shatters the peace of a residential area. A reader who obviously shares this view wrote recently wondering if indeed there were any legal restrictions, so wide-spread had their discontent become.

Motorcycles are required to come within a certain decibel levels, though these were laid down as long ago as 1970, when, possibly, ear drums were less sensitive. Machines over 125cc, for instance, must not exceed 86 decibels, and those over 175cc must not exceed 90 decibels is the level at which most people regard a vehicle as constituting a noise nuisance. (And it must be emphasized that this decibel means a count of 86 in testing on free roads at 50 mph.)

So, for the most part, most new machines are reasonably well suppressed. The main offenders are older bikes which have been deliberately and illegally tampered with by their owners. Favourite plays are either to remove the silencer or to fit a special "sporty" silencer: either way, the object is to make the machine sound more aggressive.

There is a law against it but one which is notoriously difficult to enforce. The police are not in the habit of carrying noise meters about with them and the evidence of their ears alone, however graphic, is not enough. But unlike Mr. J. I. T. Boswell, a reader from Beaumont Tyne and Wear, I wish the Government to take action.

Mr. Boswell argues that quieter bikes will be more dangerous because other road users will be less aware of their presence. And

he thinks that motor cyclists will simply throw the quieter exhausts away. He concedes that there are many "distinguishing" styling touches but says the price is not adequate... if only it were enforced.

Audi Turbo launched

The Audi 200—a turbocharged version of the German company's "executive" car, the Audi 100—has just arrived in Britain at a price of £12,950. In spite of the current market trend towards smaller and more economic cars, the turbocharged Audi 200 units here during the remainder of the year.

Like other turbocharged models, the Audi 200 offers the combined advantages of excellent performance and reasonable fuel consumption. The 0 to 50 mph acceleration time is said to be 8.6 seconds, with a claimed top speed of 125 mph, while overall consumption is around 24 miles to the gallon. The engine is a "blown" version of the Audi 2.2 litre five cylinder.

To justify the high price—Audi sees the 200 as competition for the BMW 732, the Mercedes 280 and the Jaguar 3.4—there is a comprehensive list of standard equipment including power steering, automatic transmission, electric windows, electric sunroof and stereo radio and tape player. A five-speed manual transmission is available for the same price and Audi says that the only optional extra is air conditioning.

Peter Waymark

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12 miles Bucking. 19 miles
(Price Guide around 250,000.)

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Near Bedford. The mirrored

The Department of Geography has two S.S.R.C. quota awards available to fund studentships for research in Human Geography. Supervision can be offered in a number of fields, though particularly in urban-social geography, regional development and historical geography. Regional interests include Africa and the U.S.S.R.

Further particulars from: Professor P. H. Greenwood, Head, Department

University of Liverpool
MARTHA VIDOR
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STUDENTSHIP IN
MUSIC

Applications are invited from postgraduate students or from those who will graduate this summer) who wish to be considered for election to the above-named studentship for the academic session 1980-81. The studentship will be similar in value to the basic rate associated with D.E.S. State Scholarships. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar.

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